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for Warne

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AGENDA

All eyes on Sharon

A few weeks ago on a Friday, I joined one of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's tours of strategic locations in the West Bank to refresh my memory, defined according to the old-new maps he has prepared for the cabinet discussions on the size of the next redeployment.

This was not my first tour on the West Bank with Sharon. I had accompanied him during the 1980s when I was a reporter covering Judea and Samaria and he was industry and trade minister, and in the early '90s when he was housing minister and I was a diplomatic reporter. The locations were the same, the explanations similar.

When we reached the vantage point overlooking the Jordan Valley late in the afternoon, I asked Sharon if he was not concerned that the tour would encroach on Shabbat, which might cause a coalition crisis.

"Crisis?" he replied with his characteristic smile. "Don't worry. I went to synagogue last night on Shabbat in my official car."

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Sharon (left) and Shlomo Ben-Ami learn to bake matza in Tel Aviv yesterday, in an educational program for kindergarteners sponsored by Chabad. (This One/Israel Sun)

Israel agrees to two-digit pullback

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Israel will withdraw from 10.5 percent to 12% of the West Bank in a bid to convince Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat the peace process can be put back on track, a senior government official confirmed yesterday.

This proposal was attributed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by *The New York Times* as part of a detailed analysis of the US mediation effort and the positions being taken by the contending parties.

The official also verified the *Times*' disclosure that the areas to be evacuated would be contiguous rather than scattered "pockmarks" among which travel would be difficult and hazardous.

He attributed the contiguity to National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and implied that Sharon is aware of the 10.5% to 12% offer.

Netanyahu's support of these ideas evidently was expressed in a letter he sent President Bill Clinton more than a week before their two lengthy telephone conversations last weekend.

Well-informed sources said the new chances of breaking the deadlock with the PA prompted Clinton to instruct State Department peace envoy Dennis Ross to fly to Israel

along with his deputy, Aaron Miller. Another official attributed the *Times*' disclosures to "briefings conducted by American officials."

He said they reflected "American perceptions" and Israeli offers. Ross may have been instructed to present a US plan — designed to accommodate Israeli and Palestinian concerns — to Netanyahu and Arafat. But this prospect evinced a bitter reaction from the senior aide.

"What the Americans have done

promise proposal Netanyahu has sent Clinton falls short of what the Americans proposed, but may be enough to enable a deal to be struck.

The proposal accounts for the decision announced last week for Ross to return to the region to meet with Netanyahu and Arafat, the paper said. Ross is due to arrive today and could stay through Sunday. He met last night in Miami with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai before heading to the region. According to him, Mordechai proposed an 11% withdrawal to Ross.

Prior to receiving Netanyahu's letter and speaking with him twice by telephone late last week, Clinton was leaning toward not sending Ross back to the region, and instead presenting to Netanyahu and Arafat an American proposal for a 13% redeployment, along with increased Palestinian steps against terrorism, the *Times* reported, adding that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was prepared to make the American suggestions public in an upcoming speech.

Instead, Ross will arrive to ascertain from Netanyahu "how much of this is real and how much of this is spin," the article quoted a senior administration official.

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Palestinians deny spying on settlers, Page 3

was to pour a bucket of cold water on the principle of direct negotiations," he said. "Their mistake was to tell the PA they would not intervene if progress was made, but would intervene if there were a freeze."

The *Times* account contends that "Netanyahu is now talking of withdrawals from areas that will leave Arafat in charge of a more coherently formed area of land that would look more like an embryonic state."

Hillel Kuntler adds from Washington:

According to the *Times*, the com-

Annan calls for Syria talks

By JAY BUSHINSKY

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday called for the "immediate resumption" of talks between Israel and Syria, declaring that "without peace with Syria there can be no comprehensive peace in the region."

He referred to his talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad last weekend as having led him to the conclusion that "Assad wants to resume the process from where it left off."

Although this proposal has been a non-starter as far as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is concerned, Annan used diplomatic language at his farewell news conference to imply a note of flexibility on Assad's part.

He elaborated on this theme in an interview broadcast on Channel 1. "He will be ready sooner rather than later," he said.

Annan rejected the notion that the international community and particularly the UN apply a "double standard" in dealing with Israel and Arab countries, such as Iraq.

He said it was not true that Israel systematically and invariably flouts

UN resolutions. "The peace treaties between Israel and Egypt and between Israel and Jordan were based on UN resolutions," he said.

Annan reiterated his willingness to help work out arrangements for the IDF's prospective withdrawal from southern Lebanon, but his input could begin only after UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426 are formally endorsed by

Annan's wife remembers, Page 2

the cabinet. Netanyahu hopes the cabinet endorsement will be given at its next meeting on Wednesday.

In his TV interview, Annan gave strong backing to State Department peace envoy Dennis Ross's latest mission. "I hope he puts something on the table," he said, referring to an American plan for solving the current phase of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. "The parties should be able to look at it and discuss it."

But Annan said it would not be a good idea for the US plan to be published in the local and interna-

tional news media.

Ellie Wohlgelemer adds:

Annan started his day meeting with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert at the King David Hotel. Olmert told Annan that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of Israel, and detailed efforts being made by the city to improve services for residents of eastern Jerusalem.

"I am happy to see the city develop," Annan said.

The issue of building on the controversial Har Homa site was also discussed, with Olmert explaining that 70 percent of the land belongs to Jews.

Afterwards, Olmert commented on Annan's planned meeting with Palestinian Authority Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Faisal Husseini, saying such meetings only lend support to Palestinians' claims to the eastern part of the city as their future capital.

Husseini, it was reported, said his meeting with Annan "proves that the UN takes a balanced stand on Jerusalem. There are meetings with Israelis in Jerusalem, so there must also be meetings with Palestinians."

Price-labeling regulations approved

By NINA GILBERT

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky's revisions to the price-labeling regulations were approved yesterday by the Knesset Economics Committee, in what was hailed as a turning point in consumer protection here.

They will go into effect in three months.

"This was a great day for Israeli consumers and a Pessah gift from the Knesset," said committee chairman Avi Yehzekel (Labor).

Sharansky, who was in Turkey at the time of the vote, called to thank Yehzekel.

"This is a great accomplishment for the Israeli consumer," he said. "The Knesset deserves praise for demonstrating public responsibility by protecting the consumer."

Sharansky's order had called for expanding the requirement to affix prices on all packaged goods to those which had previously enjoyed exemptions, including dairy products under supervision.

But under a compromise reached by Yehzekel to ensure that the measures would be approved before the Knesset's Pessah recess, all fresh or long-life milk under price supervision will continue to be exempt from the requirement.

As a result, in three months prices must be affixed on all items, even if they are part of a display or in a bin, including dairy products, soft drink bottles, candy bars, packaged snack foods, soup packages and frozen foods.

See PRICE, Page 2

UN chief sends tough message

By JEFF BARAK

Speaking softly but wielding a tough message, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday listed the world community's grievances against Israel.

He also said he had found a "crisis of confidence" and skepticism about "the good faith of the current Israeli government" among nearly all the Arab leaders he had met on his present Middle East tour.

In a lecture to the Israel Foreign Relations Council at Jerusalem's Larom Hotel, Annan insisted there is no alternative to the Oslo process, unless Israel wants "relations with your Palestinian partners, and perhaps others, to regress and revert to the enmity of old."

He did hold out an olive branch to Israel, however, pledging to usher in "a new era of relations between Israel and the United Nations."

See UN, Page 3

THE TEL-AVIV (03) YELLOW PAGES IN ENGLISH



The Yellow Pages Directory will be available tomorrow, free of charge, in the 03 dialing area, to all Jerusalem Post readers at news stands. The subscribers of the Jerusalem Post in the 03 area will receive the directory by mail.

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NEWS

in brief

Egyptian peace gro...

Former Egyptian assistant foreign minister Adel Adawy yesterday presented UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan with a petition from the Copenha...

Jerusalem Post Staff

asked to intervene in south Lebanon

A committee to free Suha Bishara and the Public Council for Torture yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice under the defense minister and the chief of staff to work for Bishara's release from Khiam Prison in southern Lebanon.

She has been held there without trial ever since trying to assassinate South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad in 1988.

Bishara has reportedly been held in solitary confinement during most of this period and has been declared a hostage by Amnesty International. The petition states that Israel should intervene in her case, because the state has effective control of the SLA and southern Lebanon is under Israeli occupation, according to the Geneva Convention. *Tim*

Leukemia patient meets Seinfeld

Last night, Ayal Beer, 13, of Ashkelon, got his big wish — to be a behind-the-scenes participant in the taping of an upcoming Jerry Seinfeld show.

Ayal is suffering from leukemia and his request to meet with Seinfeld was arranged through Lori Schaefer, coordinator of the Make-a-Wish Foundation in Israel. The foundation tries to fulfill the requests of children with life-threatening diseases. *Tom Tugend*

Mashaal seeks court condemnation of failed hit

Khaled Mashaal, the Hamas leader in Jordan, reportedly filed a complaint with the Jordanian courts seeking a condemnation of the assassination attempt by Mossad agents last September. Mashaal said that he is not interested in seeking compensation, but preferred a court condemnation and would ask the UN to add Israel to the list of countries which support terrorism.

Mohammed Najib and Margot Dudkevitch

Court rejects Hende's petition on Amos Oz

The High Court of Justice yesterday rejected MK Zvi Hende's (NRP) petition asking it to withhold the Israel Prize from author Amos Oz, who once called extremists among the settlers "a cruel messianic sect." Justice Yitzhak Englend rejected the appeal, saying there is no room for court involvement in the case. *AP*

'Infiltration' turns out to be false alarm

The IDF closed the Jordan Valley Road last night when they suspected a terrorist had infiltrated from Jordan, but it turned out to be a false alarm, caused when a child who had gotten lost while riding his bicycle accidentally activated the electronic border fence.

A large number of soldiers and police rushed to Kibbutz Tirat Zvi and searched the border area, the IDF said.

Trackers found the boy after a few hours, military sources said. The alert kept about 100 people from reaching a wedding at the kibbutz. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Rabbi urges removal of cross near Auschwitz

Poland's chief rabbi urged Roman Catholic leaders yesterday to remove a huge cross from the vicinity of the former Nazi death camp Auschwitz as a sign of respect for the victims of the Holocaust.

The government had reached a compromise to replace the eight-meter wooden cross with a smaller religious symbol. But that agreement has been eroding under pressure by Catholic officials reluctant to allow the removal of the cross commemorating a 1979 mass by Pope John Paul II. *AP*

Tichon to Annan: UN needs shakeup

By LIAT COLLINS

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was greeted by a red carpet and the full VIP treatment when he arrived at the Knesset yesterday. But the red carpet treatment was swept away the minute he entered the visitors' gallery, where he was given a different view of the House.

Speaker Dan Tichon warned him that unless the UN changes its policy on Israel, it will remain outside the diplomatic process. "Israel is a longstanding member of the UN, but only on rare occasions is it treated in a friendly way. Our country has seen attacks and unbalanced condemnations. The strategy of isolating and legitimizing [Israel] will only go sour," he said.

"Progress towards peace cannot be achieved along the path the UN is taking. If there is no dramatic turnaround in the UN's attitude towards Israel, the organization will continue to be distant without being a real element in solving the dispute in our region," said Tichon.

In the ensuing uproar, the opposition immediately accused Tichon of making political statements in his "greeting." Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party), who spoke in Arabic when Tichon told him English could not be used, as it is not an official language in the Knesset, praised Annan and called on him to continue his efforts to bring about a true peace.

Annan answered Tichon diplomatically at a festive meal in the House later in the afternoon. He ended his speech by saying: "I would like to appeal to the Israeli public to look anew at the United Nations. I know that 'Oom-schmoom,' David Ben-Gurion's catchy rhyme, is used from time to time by Israelis to dismiss a world organization that some see as either irrelevant or hostile to Israel."

"I would hope that Israelis could instead make 'room' for 'oom,' that they could open their minds to the prospect of a new era in relations between Israel and the United Nations. Israel has much to offer, and to gain, through the United Nations."

We have put behind us some of the worst chapters in our history; and Israel is on its way to normalizing its presence at the United Nations. In the end I think you will agree that in today's interdependent world, without 'oom' we shall have 'kloom' [nothing]."

Annan said the security of Israel and the region in general "are abiding concerns of the international community," adding that when the peace process is not moving forward it is sliding backward.

"I have come to the Middle East to listen, but also to deliver a message: that it is long past time for Israelis and Palestinians to make the difficult decisions needed to move the Oslo process forward to a successful outcome. Progress on all other fronts is likewise long overdue."

"We must move from an era of confrontation to one of cooperation; from despair to development; from enmity to amity."

"What better serves Israel's interest: a mutually agreed peace with your neighbors

that gives both peoples the chance to realize their aspirations for peaceful, prosperous lives or unilateral acts and declarations by both sides that could throw the process completely off course. At this time of profound uncertainty, I urge you not to lose sight of the gains you have made thus far. Let us not lose the momentum that has been built up so painstakingly."

By the time he arrived at the dinner, Annan had also met with members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, including chairman Uzi Landau and Ze'ev Begin (both Likud), who took a similar approach to Tichon, albeit behind closed doors.

His wife was hosted, more convivially, by the Committee on the Status of Women. Despite original doubts, Annan did begin his official visit to the Knesset by laying a wreath at the monument to fallen soldiers. Tichon had earlier said that if Annan refused to lay the wreath there, as is the custom in official visits at this level, he would refuse to meet with him.



Yad Vashem chairman Avner Shalev presents UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan with a copy of 'The Pictorial History of the Holocaust' as Annan's wife Nane looks on.

Annan's wife remembers uncle at Yad Vashem

By ELI WOHLGELER

It is not often that the spouse of a visiting diplomat receives as much attention as the diplomat, but Nane Annan was as much the focus at yesterday's visit to Yad Vashem as her husband, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

As the two stood by the Avenue of the Righteous Gentile, beside the carob tree planted in honor of her uncle, Raoul Wallenberg, Nane could be seen blinking back tears.

When the two then walked silently to the Hall of Remembrance, Kofi gripped her upper arm in a show of support and strength.

"I was born in October 1944, so I am a testimony to the time that Raoul has been away," she said later, at a meeting of the Raoul Wallenberg Honorary Citizen Committee. "Of course he was always present, although he was absent, and the simple courage that he had was also equally present." Nane's mother, Nina Lagergren, was the half-sister of Wallenberg, who disappeared while under Russian guard

on January 17, 1945, after saving the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews by putting them under Swedish protection in his role as diplomat. His death has never been confirmed.

"I think that is what we always have to hope, that this is a role model for others to act when you need to act to save lives," she said. "And at Yad Vashem there was this glimmer of hope of those who did act during that time, [in] the trees that were planted for Raoul and for the others who also had the courage to forget themselves and go out and save as many as possible."

Nane's meeting with the committee gave hope to their campaign to learn about his fate, even as they hold out hope he might still be alive, at the age of 85. One of the activists in the cause, Rabbi Stewart Weiss of Ra'anana, later quoted from the Book of Esther to explain the seeming coincidence of her position.

"It says, 'Who knows if for this reason you were made the queen?' If she was put in this

position, it was not by chance. It was through some kind of divine manipulation, to let her use her good offices for the UN to make this one of their humanitarian cause celebrities." After finishing his visit to Yad Vashem, the secretary-general made note of the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

"One often wonders what would have happened if during World War II we had that universal standard — would many more people have stood up and challenged? Would it have given courage to the victims to resist, and to fight and to hang on? If others had intervened, if there had been more [Oskar] Schindlers, more Raoul Wallengbergs, would we have saved many more? And the question I always ask is how come there were so few, so few who dared risk their own lives to save others? Why did so many turn away?"

Annan also toured the museum's Lodz Ghetto exhibit and laid a wreath in the Hall of Remembrance.

Annan could facilitate a Lebanon pullout

ANALYSIS

By JAY DUSHINSKY

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan can be a facilitator, but not a mediator.

His effectiveness begins when the parties to a conflict are ready, willing and anxious to accept compromise. Unlike past go-betweens who succeeded in defusing conflicts, like ex-secretary of state Henry Kissinger, Annan cannot talk tough to the contending parties or badger them into making painful, but unavoidable concessions.

By definition, as the world's senior civil servant, he must retain the good will and trust of the entire international community.

But after having taken a first-hand look at one of the Middle East's most volatile problems — the presence of Israeli troops in southern Lebanon — he has introduced himself as a potential resource who could be useful in finding requisite peacekeeping forces north of the border with Lebanon.

Annan confirmed that if warranted by an Israeli pullout, he could enlarge UNIFIL.

Perhaps because of his Ghanaian background and the uphill climb he had to endure ascending to his most prestigious diplomatic post, Annan has the ability to convince his hosts that he is their most sincere international friend.

He did so when he deplored the shameful instances of anti-Israel prejudice within the UN's own lofty corridors. "We must use the occasion to denounce anti-Semitism in all of its manifestations," he said. "This brings me to the lamentable resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1975, equating Zionism with racism and racial discrimination. This was, perhaps, the low-point in our relations; its negative resonance even today is difficult to overestimate. Fortunately, the General Assembly rescinded the resolution in 1991."

It is this rhetorical gift for humility and sensitivity for the feelings of others that may be Annan's most important quality and it could thrust him into the role of a catalyst in the regional peace process.

PRICE

Continued from Page 1

According to the revised regulations, animals, plants, fruits, vegetables, nuts, unpackaged bread and rolls, eggs sold individually, food sold by weight, food in vending machines and behind counters, and small unpackaged items, such as pens and nails, do not have to have prices affixed on them.

The measure was passed by a vote of 13 to 1, with one abstention.

Voting against was Labor's Shalom Simhon, who leads the agricultural lobby in the Knesset. He said the dairy products should not have been included.

Shinui's Avraham Poraz abstained, saying the regulations are too extensive.

Israel Consumer Council chairwoman Ariella Ravdel-Nedkov said the move "is a revolution in consumerism in Israel, achieved despite the heavy pressure applied by the large supermarket chains."

Yehezkel said that the dairy producers would probably mark prices on the products under supervision during production.

Ministry legal adviser Meron Hacohen said the ministry would be taking steps to increase enforcement of the regulations.

Report: US, Israel held secret exercise

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — Senior Israeli and US military officials participated in a secret joint exercise last week, code-named Jennifer-4, which was designed to improve coordination between US and Israeli forces in regional operations, according to the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*, to be published today.

The Americans asked the Israelis to keep mum about the exercise — said to have been conducted at an Israeli command-and-control headquarters — to avoid antagonizing Arab states.

The US officers reportedly arrived in Israel wearing civilian clothes and were accommodated at hotels in Tel Aviv, rather than at military installations.

According to the newsletter, Jennifer-4 is an advanced type of exercise that the Americans are not yet able to carry out with Arab armed forces. The first part of the exercise is said to involve cooperation during a Middle East war to ensure that Israeli forces do not obstruct a major US operation.

This part of the exercise, which reportedly took place in Haifa, involved command-and-control cooperation between the Israel Navy and the US Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

The second part of the exercise is scheduled to take place soon and will involve cooperation between pilots of the IAF and the US Air Force and army.

According to the newsletter, a future Middle East conflict might involve Israeli and US pilots flying on the same missions, and headquarters staff would need to know each other's identification codes.

The plan, according to *Foreign Report*, also makes provision for Israeli and American pilots to fly together and coordinate possible future attacks on targets in Iraq and Iran.

Last week's exercise took place while Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was in Washington, which, the newsletter said, underlines the Clinton administration's policy of building up Mordechai as a possible successor to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

"Whereas the Americans regard Netanyahu as being unmanageable, they think Mordechai is reasonable," said *Foreign Report*, adding, "He is the cabinet minister who visits Washington most frequently."

The newsletter also reported that Israeli and Chinese experts tested their jointly developed F10 fighter aircraft in early February. China wants to reduce its dependence on the Russian-designed Su-27.

With deep sorrow we announce the death of

JOEL (Jules) NEUMANN

The funeral will leave today, March 26, at 2 p.m. from 14 Rehov Habrosh, Savyon, to the Savyon Cemetery.

Trudi, Ben, Tuca, Uri and their families.

The Hakamat Matzevah of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

JENNY (Shaindel) SORSCHER נ"ע

will take place on the *yahrzeit*, Friday, March 27, 1998 at Har Hamenuhot, Heika Hasidim at 10 a.m.

A bus will leave from Concord Hotel, 36 Malchei Yisrael, at 9:30 a.m. RSVP: 08-9741006

The Sorscher Family

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

ANNA

and offer condolences to her brother David Schwartz and family

Please refrain from condolence visits.

Kibbutz Amiad

PULLBACK

Continued from Page 1

In their White House meeting two weeks ago, Clinton asked King Hussein to urge Netanyahu to make the serious decisions necessary to advance the process, the Times said.

Margot Dudkevitch adds:

At a stormy emergency meeting of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza last night, settlement leaders declared they will return to the streets to protest further withdrawal from the West Bank.

Council members will ask MKs to sign a letter by the Land of Israel Front threatening to topple the government if any withdrawal from the West Bank takes place. They also plan to intensify Knesset lobbying activities to obtain a majority against any further withdrawal.

The settlers said they will also embark on a campaign to alert the public of the dangers if the government goes ahead and grants Palestinians land contiguity, claiming the government is ignoring the total lack of Palestinian

compliance with the Oslo Accords.

Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said reports of a proposal that Netanyahu is considering to grant the Palestinians land contiguity and a possible 10% withdrawal are inconceivable.

"Each percentage point comprises 50 square kilometers of land and we are against any kind of concession when compliance is nonexistent," she said.

Council members are to hold a protest vigil outside the Laromne Hotel when Ross meets with Netanyahu tonight.

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Palestinians deny spying on settlers

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Palestinians yesterday denied charges they are monitoring Jewish settlement activity on behalf of hostile elements, declaring their activities are legitimate and the information is passed on to the Palestinian Authority to be used during peace negotiations.

A report in yesterday's *Yedioth Aharonot* charged that the Palestinians are spying on the settlements and have compiled 143 files, one for each community in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

The paper said that the files contain information on present construction, building plans, settlement borders, arsenals, and the number of residents in each community.

The report also said Palestinian laborers working in the communities were questioned by Palestinian security officers seeking to obtain information and that Palestinians entered settlements with US consular officials and walked around

freely taking pictures.

Civil administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner said the information could have been given to the PA during redeployment when the transfer of authority occurred.

Speaking on Israel Radio, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's adviser Ahmed Tibi said the report's headlines claiming the Palestinians were spying was unnecessary.

"Why is it that the US consulate can monitor settlement activity, as well as Peace Now, and only when the Palestinians collect information they are accused of spying?" he asked.

Tibi said that recently settlers in the West Bank had approached the PA to sell their homes. Palestinian officials said Tibi visited the sites and also checked the documents, but that at present the PA is not interested in purchasing homes that are situated on Palestinian land.

He refused to divulge the settlement, but denied reports that the "settlers" were from Pisgat Ze'ev, a northern Jerusalem neighborhood.

Settlers said they are less concerned about the Palestinians monitoring the settlements, which they have known about for some time, than files containing such information are being held at Orient House and could be used by hostile elements.

Deputy director of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza Shlomo Filber accused the Israeli security forces of turning a blind eye.

"We are more concerned that in the heart of Jerusalem there exists a large intelligence archive listing information on all the communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza and that they can be accessed by anyone hostile to Israel or the communities and used to prepare terrorist attacks."

According to council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar, concern over the possibility of information falling into terrorists' hands following an incident last Friday in Jericho, when two Jews were detained by the Palestinian Police.

"The two were on their way to

pray at the synagogue in Jericho, when they were stopped by the Palestinian Police and taken to the local station," Tayar said. "There the police asked the two for identification and then proceeded to register their names and identity card numbers and address on a computer."

Filber said that security personnel in all the communities have been warned to remain alert and check more carefully those entering, particularly US officials and journalists.

"We can check Government Press Office cards and have our own means to investigate if they are valid or not," he said.

Tayar said that many times US consular officials had entered communities with Palestinians in their cars.

"There is a certain procedure for consular officials seeking to visit settlements and that includes notifying the community and arranging a meeting," she said.

Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.



Waiting for eviction

Residents of the homeless encampment across from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem discuss their situation yesterday. The High Court of Justice has given the remaining residents until Sunday to find a housing solution or show cause why the Jerusalem Municipality should not evict them. Only a handful of the original residents are still there, after evictions by the city last week.

(Brian Hendler)

Election panel: Maxim Levy's eligibility was never in question

Histadrut election campaign begins

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The Histadrut's election campaign kicks off today with the first-time publication of the voters' registry, listing the names of 562,210 eligible voters in the labor federation's 29 districts.

The Histadrut's 257,787 women voters will also be voting in the June 9 elections for the Na'amat leadership.

Gesher MK Maxim Levy, whose

battle to run against Histadrut chairman MK Amir Peretz created dramatic headlines earlier this month, in fact had no problem to contend all along, the election committee revealed at a press conference yesterday.

Gesher had accused the Histadrut leadership of applying a clause in the organization's constitution to prevent him from running, for fear he might beat Peretz. Peretz on his part asked the

Histadrut parliament to change the regulations to enable Levy to run against him, "to preserve democracy."

But Levy had been a Histadrut member and there was nothing to prevent his running, the election committee's legal adviser, Alon Levin, said.

"When we received his petition we couldn't understand what it meant. We announced he had the right to vote and be elected, and

removed it from our agenda," Levin said.

Former Supreme Court justice Elyahu Nawi, the committee chairman, said the election budget would be NIS 10 million. The voters will cast their ballots in more than 1,200 polling stations, but this time there will be no polls in work places, military bases, or ships at sea. People will only be allowed to vote in their residential areas.

UN

Continued from Page 1

He described Israel's position as the only member state that is not a member of a regional group — which prevents it from being elected to one of the UN's main organs, such as the Security Council or Economic and Social Council — as an anomaly which should be corrected.

"We must uphold the principle of equality among all UN member states," Annan said, to warm applause. But he reserved the final part of his speech for what he termed the "most difficult message of my visit... Here is what the great majority of the member states of the United Nations say: They regard Israel as having been responsible, directly or indirectly, for provocative acts that undermine goodwill and spark hostilities."

Annan said that in these countries' view, Israel has not abided by Security Council resolutions. He said the majority of UN members feel that Israel has been slow to fulfill its Oslo obligations and that it has made its implementation "conditional in a way that the Oslo Accords did not."

"They see that you have expanded old settlements, and started new ones. They are concerned by the closures, roadblocks, and other restrictions that aggravate the economic and humanitarian crisis fac-

ing the Palestinians."

Annan insisted that a comprehensive peace settlement is possible, based on the principles enshrined in Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and reflected in the Oslo Accords.

"Land for peace," he said, "is the only principle that has a chance of bringing peace to this land." Annan said that at the same time, the UN is unequivocally committed to uphold the right of all peoples to live in peace and pursue their daily lives free from terror, threats, and acts of aggression.

Answering questions after his speech, Annan said he had delivered a similarly tough and frank message in a meeting with Palestinian Authority officials in Gaza earlier this week. He said he had called on the PA to eschew violence and incitement and remain committed to the peace process.

Annan added that "peace and security are two sides of the same coin. You should not see them as a parallel process, because one reinforces the other."

David Bar-Ilan, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's communications director, said in response: "We fully agree with Mr. Annan that the Oslo formula should be land for peace. But in the past four years we have been giving away land and getting terrorism in return. I don't think anyone has any doubt over who is to blame for this situation."

Following 2-day meeting of foreign ministers:

Arab League blasts Israel's spin on 425

CAIRO — Arab foreign ministers yesterday rejected conditions for an Israeli pullout from south Lebanon and urged the US to pressure Israel to be more forthcoming in peace talks with the Palestinians.

They said in a statement after a two-day Arab League council of foreign ministers meeting in Cairo that Israel must quit Lebanese territory unconditionally.

"The council demands that Israel implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon to Lebanon's internationally recognized borders," the statement said. "The council also rejects the Israeli initiative pertaining to this issue."

"The current Israeli proposal is so full of conditions that it nullifies Lebanon's sovereignty over the south," Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez told reporters yesterday.

"Resolution 425 is clear and does not allow for Israeli conditions. Israel is carrying out a tactical maneuver to drag Lebanon

into negotiations. Doing that would be decreasing that the resolution cannot be implemented," he added.

The ministers also demanded Israel withdraw from the Golan Heights.

The call for US pressure came a day before Dennis Ross, the US Middle East peace coordinator, is expected in the region to try to convince Israel to withdraw from additional territory in the West Bank.

Arab ministers called on the US and Russia "to exert more efforts and give a push to the peace process," said Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail, the head of the two-day meeting.

The Arab foreign ministers condemned "Israel's decisions and insistence on settlements in Jebel Abu Ghneim [Har Homa]."

"We want to close the file of the Arab-Israeli struggle, but we can't do that without a fair and just solution," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters.

"We want all countries to join the Arab position against Israel. We must take this political action and we cannot maintain the status quo, particularly with a political institution that wants to uproot the peace process."

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, called for stronger Arab solidarity to pressure Israel with a political boycott.

The ministers reaffirmed United Arab Emirates sovereignty over three disputed islands near Gulf oil shipping lanes and condemned what they called Iran's occupation of them in 1992.

Gulf Arab states have long demanded an end to Iranian control of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb islands.

Abu Dhabi has urged Iran to submit the dispute to the International Court of Justice, but Tehran wants it settled by negotiation, saying the islands are "inseparable parts of Iran."

The UAE last year accused Iran of deploying offensive weapons on the islands. (News agencies)

Report: French plan multinational force for Lebanon

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — France is planning to organize a multinational force to monitor and help ensure security following an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, according to the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*.

A French military team with orders to plan the arrival of a multinational force has become a fixture in Beirut, said the newsletter, to be published today.

In addition, a senior French general attached to the office of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin visited Beirut recently to meet Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and to test the reaction of Hizbullah leaders to the French ideas.

A Lebanese intelligence officer, "who is constantly approached by French officers for information," told *Foreign Report* that intelligence reaching Paris is highly colored by Maronite Christian influence and "pathetically lacking in hard facts about south Lebanon."

A UNIFIL officer from a western European country was quoted as saying: "They [the French] have 200 soldiers hidden away at our force headquarters, but the way they talk about it you'd think they run the place. Why don't they explain why they can't operate in the field? They deride the UN force as 'toothless.' Then why are they asking for my help?"

Although the idea of a French-led multinational force enforcing peace in south Lebanon is currently considered a non-starter because of opposition by Syrian President Hafez Assad, the French

are pressing on, presumably in the hope that existing opposition will somehow dissipate.

According to the newsletter, the basic elements of the French plan involve a multinational force comprising, among others, units from France and some of the former French colonies in Africa.

The French hope that the UN will continue to maintain UNIFIL, which has been in south Lebanon for 20 years, alongside the new force "to serve as first line of defense in preserving peace and security," but French planners concede that the UN is unlikely to agree to keep UNIFIL in the same theater as a major, French-dominated peace-keeping unit.

Some French planners would like to incorporate the South Lebanese Army into their projected multinational force, but they acknowledge that idea, too, would be vetoed by Hizbullah.

The French planners say the SLA members would have to be protected by the multinational force until their safety could be guaranteed somewhere. Some senior SLA commanders have reportedly been assured of asylum in France, and a few have even been shown (but not given) their French passports.

France wants UNIFIL to provide their projected force with intelligence on Lebanese armed groups, the IDF and the SLA, as well as information on minefields.

France would also like UNIFIL to clear all routes the new force would use, help it to deploy and to set up its logistics system.

The plan for deployment is in three phases:

- The arrival of the reconnaissance party, with at least three months to plan for the deployment, to be based preferably at UNIFIL headquarters.

- The arrival of the advance party, comprising the headquarters of the force and its field staff, one month before the main party.

- The arrival and deployment of the main party, preferably with the assistance of UNIFIL.

If UNIFIL is withdrawn, the French hope the pullout is coordinated with the arrival and deployment of the multinational force.

But France would insist that at least half of UNIFIL stay behind to provide intelligence and security for the new force — in its initial stages, at least.

However, *Foreign Report* said UNIFIL officers are not enthusiastic about assisting French ambitions.

One senior officer was quoted as saying: "Nobody should count on us to provide free services to the French. If they are so sure that they can do what we couldn't, as the Arabs would say: *Ahlan wa sahlan* (You're most welcome)."

France, which initiated the committee that monitors compliance with the agreement that followed Operation Grapes of Wrath, is considered to have ambitions for a special role in the peace process, particularly if it helps to enhance and expand France's role in Lebanon and other French-speaking states in the region.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Barak criticized

The debate over the US initiative and the firm stand of the government against it, provoked commentators' scrutiny over the stand held by opposition leader Ehud Barak.

Most commentators believe the opposition does not challenge or provide an alternative to government policy. "The American plan is so attractive that it is difficult to understand Labor Chairman Ehud Barak's stance," writes *Ma'ariv's* Chemi Shalev, who adds that Barak insists on attacking the government for putting itself in a position where it is forced to accept American "dictats."

"Instead of supporting the redeployment plan... [Barak] provides full support to those in the government who believe that the proposal is dangerous." *Ha'aretz's* Gideon Samet says this could have been a heavenly period for Labor with a bit of luck and brains.

"The difficulty is not only with Netanyahu as the problem, but with Barak as the solution," he writes, saying that the incompetence and weakness of the opposition disrupts the democratic game and causes national damage.

As for the Palestinian issue, "ask

around about how the Labor approach is different from the Likud and the only answer you'll get is embarrassment."

Unwanted visitor

Interior Minister Eli Shalev's forgiveness and decision to retract the entry ban against Rabbi Abraham Hecht, who incited against late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, is unjustified but legal, *Ha'aretz* editorializes.

It adds there is no law that could prevent him from coming here or even immigrating, infuriating as his opinions might be. However, "if he does decide to come, one should assume he'll receive an enraged reception that'll make the public's opinion of him clear."

Reforming the reform

The Knesset Economics Committee yesterday approved the regulation reform demanding the marking of prices on consumer goods. *Yedioth's* Gideon Eshet writes that not only the issue of tagging prices should be addressed but also the prices themselves, especially in light of the government's desire to nurture a free market economy.

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Amnesty bills defeated

By LIAT COLLINS

Three bills proposing a general amnesty in honor of the jubilee celebrations fell by a large majority in the Knesset on preliminary reading yesterday. The bill by Gideon Ezra (Likud) was defeated 53-30, Ze'ev Boim's (Likud) 48-34 with two abstentions, and Haim Dayan's (Tsomet) more sweeping bill by 53-22.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said the government took no stand on the issue, but the Justice Ministry opposed the bills.

Several MKs said there is no reason criminals should be granted special privileges for the 50th anniversary and claimed the crime rate would rise if prisoners were freed.

Dayan rejected the charges. "What's the real solution to the fear that criminals will flood the street?" he asked. "To give them all a life sentence?" He also invoked the cost of maintaining a prisoner in jail, which he said is \$11,000 a year.

Hanegbi spoke against Dayan's bill, saying there is no room for the Knesset to crassly intervene in judicial issues of this kind.

The Likud gave its MKs freedom to vote as they wished; most Shas MKs and Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi supported the

bills; Labor and the National Religious Party demanded its MKs oppose it. Nonetheless, the NRP's Yigal Bibi, Eli Gabai, and Avner Shaki and Labor's Eli Ben-Menahem and Rafik Haj Yihye, who only entered the Knesset this week, supported the amnesty bills.

Ben-Menahem, who lives in a poor Tel Aviv neighborhood, said, "I came to the Knesset to support the weaker sectors who voted for me." He also complained that imposing party discipline turned the faction into "a kindergarten."

After the vote, neighborhood activists Charlie Biton and Kochavi Shemesh, who had been strenuously lobbying for amnesty, sought out the television crews and proceeded on camera to burn their Labor Party membership cards. Shemesh said Labor had let down the needy neighborhoods and that Labor chairman Ehud Barak had promised the party would allow its MKs to vote according to conscience.

Most ministers, apart from the NRP ministers Yitzhak Levy and Shaul Yahalom, were noticeably absent for the vote, a fact noted by former justice and finance minister Dan Meridor, who told reporters: "The government was absent, but the rule of law was present."



No annexation
Residents of Mevaseret Zion hold up signs reading "No to annexation" at a demonstration yesterday on the Harel Bridge, which overlooks the highway leading into Jerusalem. Townsman are battling a proposal to incorporate large areas west of Jerusalem - including Mevaseret - into the capital, and have vowed to fight to keep their town independent. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert told Israel Radio yesterday that it is logical to incorporate Mevaseret and other nearby towns into the city, since "most of these townships are, in fact, entirely dependent on the infrastructure of Jerusalem."

Bill to draft yeshiva students fails

By LIAT COLLINS

A bill by Tsomet MKs Eliezer Zandberg, Pini Badash and Haim Dayan which called for mandatory military or civil national service for all citizens, suffered a massive defeat when it came up for preliminary reading yesterday.

Only Zandberg and Badash voted in favor, two MKs abstained and 51 voted against it. Dayan did not participate in the vote.

Zandberg said afterwards that he would resubmit the bill after the required six-month wait.

United in opposition to the bill were such varied MKs as United Torah Judaism's Avraham Ravitz and Moshe Gafni and the Democratic Arab Party's Abdul Malik Dehamshe and Taleb A-Sanaa.

Zandberg said he was particularly surprised by the vote, since Labor leader Ehud Barak has also called for national service for all and because he had been promised greater support once he removed from the bill a clause saying that those who chose of their own free will not to do any form of national service would not have the right to vote.

"It seems the [MKs] were mainly motivated by narrow political considerations," Zandberg said.

Zandberg said the Likud faction had tried to prevent him from raising the bill.

Explaining the reasoning behind the bill, Zandberg said: "The burden on some of us is greater than on others. There is no reason why it shouldn't be shared equally."

Barak, who voted against the bill, said after the vote: "We support the equal distribution of the security burden by comprehensive military and national service, but we are opposed to legislation of an anti-democratic nature, which makes the fundamental right to vote and be elected conditional on something other than citizenship."

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom said the government opposed the bill because a wide-sweeping law creating a parallel alternative national service could break existing frameworks.

Despite earlier reports: Barak, Deri won't meet today

By BATSEVA TSUR

Shas leader Aryeh Deri yesterday said he was hoping for a reconciliation with Supreme Court President Aharon Barak following derogatory comments he made about Barak and the courts last summer.

Meretz MK Dedi Zucker had arranged a meeting between Barak and Shas leaders for today, Deri told Army Radio.

But court spokesman Moshe Goral said that no such meeting had yet been set up.

Deri is currently on trial for fraud in Jerusalem District Court and may also face an indictment

over financial irregularities during his term as interior minister.

In July of last year, Deri was quoted by the Shas newspaper *Yom Leyom* as saying: "How can half a million people be expected to trust a building where... the basic precepts of Judaism are trampled upon? How can an Ashkenazi judge understand the way of thinking of the Sephardi community? How can a secular judge who does not observe Shabbat, understand the innermost soul of a haredi Jew?"

Earlier, Shas supporters had held a rowdy demonstration at the entrance to the Supreme Court building in Jerusalem.

Knesset okays 2-day Independence Day holiday

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset wrapped up its winter sining yesterday with a series of bills and motions and committee meetings in the usual frenzy of clearing desks and drawers before a recess.

The summer sitting is scheduled to start on May 4. Some committees will continue to meet during the break, in particular the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the Knesset Finance Committee.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and his deputy speakers ensured MKs stuck to the three-minute time limit in speeches, and the session ended earlier than expected despite the 30 bills and 17 motions on the agenda.

leaders have not been invited to participate fully in official celebratory events. Nonetheless, the bill granting the two-day break passed all three readings in one day. Two Shas MKs objected.

'Vanunu Law' passes

Despite the objections of MKs from Hadash and the Democratic Arab Party, the Knesset yesterday passed second and third reading of the what has been nicknamed the Vanunu Law (after nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu).

The law states that letters from prisoners to

MKs can be opened and checked by the Knesset Subcommittee on Secret Services, which does not even inform the parliamentarians that a letter had been sent to them.

MK Tamar Gozansky (Hadash) complained that the law arbitrarily uses the term "state security" to harm democratic rights of prisoners.

MK Azmi Bishara (Hadash) said the bill violates the Basic Law: Dignity and Freedom of Man.

Comptroller to get one 7-year term

A bill determining that the state comptroller will be elected for one seven-year term instead of a five-year mandate which is renewable for a second term was one of the pieces of legislation to pass second and third readings yesterday.

AGENDA

Continued from Page 1

I was reminded of this now that American mediator Dennis Ross is arriving again. Within the US administration, as well as among key officials in the Palestinian Authority I spoke with this week, Sharon's name is repeatedly mentioned as one of the preferred candidates to head the negotiating team with the Palestinians in the event that the peace process gets back on track.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, they say, "keeps behaving as if Sharon is breathing down his neck due to his popularity in the settlements and among the national-religious camp. With Sharon leading the way, it may be easier to navigate the negotiations."

This assessment wouldn't surprise the group of MKs who identify themselves as the Land of Israel Front. They remember his support for the government during the Camp David Accords, they remember his concessions to the Jordanians on the issue of water, and they have not acted particularly surprised by his proposal to withdraw unilaterally from Lebanon.

Though they appreciate his defense experience, they have not concealed their concern that as chief negotiator with the Palestinians, he may well support

concessions to which he would never agree if he were still a military man.

Public redeployment position

This evening, Ross will meet with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. Tomorrow he will see Netanyahu.

In a conversation I had with an American Jewish leader who spoke this week with senior officials in the State Department and the White House, he warned that Ross's visit is the last chance for preventing a crisis between Israel and the US.

He stressed that an argument is under way in Washington between two fundamentally different positions: The first conveys disappointment and a lack of faith in the prime minister, and maintains there is no alternative to the administration's "Take it or leave it" proposal. This approach is gathering support in the State Department, including on the seventh floor, where Madeleine Albright has her offices.

The second approach is based on the position that Israel is the US's natural ally in the region, come what may, and therefore the administration must avoid conflict.

The second option still seems to hold sway over President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. It was reflected in Clinton's conversation with Netanyahu over the weekend and in Gore's comments

to American Jewish audiences last week.

The main concern in Washington and Jerusalem is not over the second redeployment. While reducing or increasing the size of the withdrawal at this stage will constitute a tactical achievement for one party the key question is what will happen in the future.

The government and the PA are now beginning to realize that the most serious drawback of the political process is the absence of what policymakers term a "fallback position" in the event that the permanent-status discussions reach an impasse. This is why Israel is insisting that the third redeployment be included in the final-status agreement.

Senior government ministers realize, however, that this is pie in the sky. They may have preferred to bury their heads in the sand, but British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's visit soon gave them a rude awakening, illustrating what will happen if Israel and the Palestinians do not reach agreement on a final-status settlement, and there is no security net that is anchored in prior agreements between Netanyahu, Arafat, and Clinton.

The administration is strenuously denying the existence of the alleged "official document" discussed on Channel 1's *Popolitika* program on Monday. This document reportedly records that in his talks with

Madeleine Albright in Paris several weeks ago, Netanyahu undertook to implement a redeployment of 10%-15%.

In contrast, reports have been received in Washington from the US Embassy in Tel Aviv of a conversation between the prime minister and Ambassador Edward Walker referring to a 12% redeployment.

If we examine Sharon's proposal for a non-belligerency agreement with the Palestinians in return for defining 40% of the West Bank as Zone A, under the full control of the Palestinians, we can see that it is based on the 2.9% which is already fully controlled by Arafat, the 24% currently defined as Zone B (jointly controlled), and a further 13.1%, which more or less coincides with the American demand on the second redeployment.

It should be noted that in informal talks held between members of Israel's negotiating team during the Rabin-Peres government and members of the American negotiating team, the possibility of an impasse during the final-status talks - on such issues as Jerusalem and the right of return - was taken into account.

The Israelis explained that in such an event, it would not pull out of more than 51% of the territories, leaving Israel with control over 49% until negotiations were renewed.

The Americans prefer not to specify the size of a third redeployment in their current proposal.

An American official told me this week that during one of the discussions, Netanyahu had informed them that to reach a permanent agreement with Arafat, he would need just six working sessions at Camp David.

"If all he needs is six meetings, what does he require an understanding about the third redeployment for? He'll reach agreement on the final settlement before he has to implement the third redeployment?"

But the Americans, the Palestinians, and the Israelis are finding it difficult to comprehend how to bridge the gaps that even Peres's men were concerned would lead to an impasse.

For this reason, determining a "fallback position" with regard to the third redeployment is likely to be a key issue in the Ross-Netanyahu-Arafat discussions.

The Americans see the maneuvering room as being between Sharon's minimum proposal, which sets the total pullback via the redeployments at 40%, and the maximum version proposed by the Labor government of 51%. But even the Americans realize that Netanyahu was not elected to pursue the Labor government's position and that he has even less room to maneuver. In other words, closer to the low 40s.

The Palestinian angle

Debate in the West Bank focuses on the choice between the option that terror alone will shake up Israel's right-wing government and the idea that to bring about a change of government, the Israeli public must be convinced that the Palestinians are serious about peace, and that this cannot be achieved through violence.

This week I met with Radwan Abu-Ayyash, director of the Palestinian Broadcasting Authority.

At the end of the 1980s, Arafat appointed him as a possible candidate to handle negotiations with the Israelis, since he was officially resident in both Ramallah and east Jerusalem. Today, as he struggles with his own politicians over the issue of public broadcasting in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, he remains a first-class political observer.

Abu-Ayyash reflects Palestinian frustration with the Netanyahu government. He does not believe an agreement can be reached with it. He believes that the Palestinians must be patient and build up a relationship of mutual trust.

"We left everything to the politicians, and they made the situation worse. We must return to a 'people's diplomacy,' to meetings and dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis which will restore faith in peace."

The idea of taking whatever Netanyahu offers and attempting to reach a state of non-belligerency until a permanent settlement is hammered out should not be rejected outright, he says.

Jerusalem, incidentally, believes that a fallback position must also be devised for Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's proposal for withdrawal from Lebanon.

In the cabinet, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav said that if Mordechai's initiative bears no fruit within six months, then Sharon's proposal should be considered.

Security officials believe in possibly updating this concept, but presenting Sharon's proposal for a phased withdrawal as an alternative to that of the defense establishment.

Officials abroad believe that this integrated position may move the Lebanese, and possibly even the Syrians, to enter into negotiations on the first option, which is preferable from all angles to all the parties.

But the Jewish leader who participated in this week's administration discussions stressed that above all, the most important move from Israel's perspective is to restore the trust between Netanyahu, on one side, and Clinton and Albright on the other. This would be no mean feat given Israel's activity in Congress.

Sharansky's secret weapon

On the eve of Mordechai's visit to the US, which began yesterday in Miami, a sense of nostalgia was voiced in the Pentagon for David Ivry, ex-Defense Ministry director-general, who knew how to handle arguments over Israel's needs modestly, while creating a sense of trust.

In their view, the ministry's new approach is based on a "we deserve it" attitude that raises the hackles of their American colleagues.

Officials in the Pentagon have noted that Mordechai's image suffers in Washington in no small part because of this, and that the Defense Department's counting of him causes eyebrows to be raised at the State Department.

It was Natan Sharansky who left a positive impression in Washington. His conversation with Albright, which was held privately with no minutes taken, improved the atmosphere and bolstered confidence. His discussion with Gore on the subject of Russian aid to Iran was treated with due seriousness. Sharansky was accompanied to Gore's office by his confidant, Ari Weiss, director of the Rothchild Foundation.

Weiss, whose name is almost unknown in Israel, was one of the most influential personalities in Washington during the 1980s, when he served as senior aide to House Speaker Tip O'Neill. While Weiss was wondering whether Gore would remember him, his host stood up, embraced him warmly, and said: "Ari, how could I possibly forget you. It was thanks to you that I was appointed to the House Intelligence Committee."

Weiss came to Washington in 1973 at 20, having graduated from Yale, and began working with O'Neill. Simultaneously, he studied law at night at Georgetown University.

When O'Neill was elected House Speaker, he appointed Weiss general secretary of the Democratic Party's steering and policy committee, which had 29 members, all congressmen, including the House leadership and committee chairmen.

It soon became apparent that the committee's source of power lay not just in its mandate to formulate policy, but - as frequently happens in Israel - in its ability to make political appointments. In this way, the young congressman who is now vice president was appointed to the prestigious Intelligence Committee.

Some time later, Weiss met Avital Sharansky during her struggle for her husband's release from his Russian jail. He helped her and, when he made aliyah in 1985, maintained close contact with her until Sharansky was released. He then became one of his closest friends in Jerusalem.

Today, Weiss is Sharansky's main guide through the Washington maze.

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Pope to meet joint delegation today

By LISA PALMER-SELL

ROME — A papal audience today will conclude an intense four-day session of the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee.

The pope is expected to make an indirect reply to criticisms of the Vatican document on the Holocaust.

This meeting of 40 Catholic and Jewish representatives of the ILC, the sixteenth in the 27 years of its existence, was dedicated to how each group teaches about the other. Much time was dedicated to an analysis of the Shoah document's strengths and weaknesses.

Stressing that the document was "only a step in an ongoing

process," Cardinal Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with Jews, agreed to the establishment of a bilateral working committee for further research on the Church and the Shoah.

In discussions here, participants expressed appreciation for the document's condemnations of antisemitism and its call to the

Church for repentance, but also noted the document's failure to analyze the antisemitic climate prepared by centuries of theological anti-Jewish teaching.

"The frankness of debate on both sides," said Rabbi David Rosen, director of Israel's Anti-Defamation League office, "is a sign of significant progress in mutual trust."

During the meeting, a report on developments in interfaith cooperation was presented by Rabbi James Rudin.

In addition, a report on the progress in the US in using "in context" methods for teaching the New Testament without incurring anti-Judaic stereotypes was given by Philip Cunningham.

Vatican dedicates Golan site

By HANI SHAPIRO

A Vatican institution yesterday dedicated an observation point on the Golan Heights on the site of what was a Syrian bunker before the Six Day War.

The observation point is at the ancient city of Bethsaida.

Monsieur Richard Mathes, cultural attaché of the Holy See and the Vatican's Notre Dame Center in Jerusalem, which provided the funds, said at the ceremony that he believes the pope will visit Israel in 2000 at the latest and that the visit would undoubtedly include Bethsaida.

Veteran Holy Land archaeologist Father Bargil Dixner recalled visiting the site and exploring the trenches shortly after the Six Day War, despite warnings of mines.

He said that when digging the trenches the Syrians had uncovered the first and second century objects he found there, thus helping to identify it as the site of some of the most important New Testament miracles.

Bethsaida, which was officially opened to visitors, has been the object of archaeological excavations for 11 years under the direction of Dr. Rami Arav from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, which led a consortium of academic institutions to finance the dig.



Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday asks Prof. Roland Chisin about the cyclotron at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem section.

New technique may cure gene-based disorders

By JUDY SEGEL

Jerusalem researchers have developed a pioneering technique to introduce genes directly into bone marrow cells using a harmless virus. If successful in human trials, the strategy could be used for curing a variety of gene-based disorders, including certain types of cancers, thalassemia, severe combined immunodeficiency, and Gaucher's disease.

The strategy that has been used until now for gene therapy is based on retroviruses, which are the virus family to which HIV belongs. Clinical trials using retroviruses in New York and Texas to treat 25 women with breast cancer have cost \$25 million, but proved a failure.

Dr. Deborah Rund of the hematology department at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem tested a multi-drug-resistant (MDR) gene whose effects in the cells can be clearly determined. The previous work was done for over the last decade by Prof. Ariella Oppenheim of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, who developed a unique and efficient method for introducing

genes into cells based on the genetically engineered SV40 (simian virus).

Rund, who published an article on the technique with Oppenheim in this week's *American Journal of Human Gene Therapy*, says the work has been held back for a decade due to lack of money.

Retroviruses, which had been regarded by scientists around the world as the "great hope" for gene therapy, have not panned out, because they only penetrate dividing cells. When bone marrow cells do not divide, the vector is ineffective.

"Scientists were skeptical over Prof. Oppenheim's use of SV40, because they said retroviruses were the answer. But these are not efficient enough in introducing healthy genes into bone marrow, which is the target cell for the cure of many types of disease; and retroviruses can even be carcinogenic," said Rund.

Oppenheim's SV40 virus — tried on human bone marrow in the lab — penetrates the bone marrow cells quickly and efficiently. Although actually treating humans is "several years away," Rund said the next step is to take

human bone marrow and introduce it into immunologically depressed mice as a lab model for working with human bone marrow.

The SV40 virus was used to introduce into normal bone marrow cells of the gene that causes resistance to chemotherapy. "This sounds like a bad thing, but would be beneficial for people who have cancer that doesn't involve the bone marrow," Rund explained. "Their bone marrow can be removed, the special gene introduced, and then they could then be given chemotherapy, without suffering the side effects and wiping out their immune system, which would happen with conventional therapy."

Meanwhile, Hadassah's gene-therapy techniques were explained to Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, director-general Prof. Gabi Barabash and other officials during a visit to the hospital on Tuesday. The officials were led through the various labs by Hadassah Medical Organization director Prof. Shmuel Penchas, who told them about 21 gene-therapy projects being pursued at Hadassah — more than in any other medical center in the country.

Weizman urged not to pardon wife killers

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The families of women who were murdered by their husbands or boyfriends yesterday called on President Ezer Weizman not to grant pardons to the murderers and to treat the bereaved families like those of terrorist victims and fallen soldiers.

The families, who gathered at Na'amat's center for battered women in Maoz Aviv, criticized the police and the courts for indifference to women who are terrorized by violent spouses and their failure to act to prevent murders, even after repeated complaints.

"President Weizman goes to visit the parents of soldiers who died in terrorist attacks or accidents. Aren't our daughters terrorist victims? If so many people were killed by Arab terrorists, the whole state would be in an uproar and the security services would jump into action, impose closures, and arrest people. But when our daughter is threatened with murder, everyone's indifferent," said the father of Revital Amzaleg of Kiryat Motzkin, who was murdered by her husband on March 10.

Amzaleg had filed a complaint with the police, because Revital was too scared to do so herself.

"The investigator told us our daughter was a liar and would not act on the complaint," he said.

He called on women and their families to "complain to the police and not give up," and on the police "to probe every complaint, and if the wife cancels it, to find out why."

"I don't believe anything can be done, as long as the judges let the violent husbands out of prison," said Shimon Vaknin, the brother of Shoshana Vaknin Zabri, who was murdered by her husband last year.

The judge before whom Zabri was brought after threatening to murder his wife refused to restrain his movements, stating she did not get the impression he was dangerous or that his wife was reliable.

"My sister wanted to leave him and moved in with our mother in Mazkeret Baya," Vaknin said. "He wouldn't accept it and became increasingly violent, then started threatening murder. The police refused to accept her complaint of his continued threats, even after he attacked her. Then he went on reserve duty, took the gun they gave him, and shot my sister. She fell after the first bullet hit her, but he went on firing 10 bullets at her, to make sure she was dead."

Sonia Yakobovitz's husband threatened to kill her and stalked her

constantly. One day he ambushed her near the bus station on her way home and stabbed her to death.

"I complained 11 times at the police, but they didn't take me seriously," Sonia's sister said. "In the Jewish faith, there's an eye for an eye. There should be a law enabling the death penalty for what he did."

A man who asked to remain anonymous said that two-and-a-half years ago his sister was murdered by her husband, who was declared insane. He had been interned in psychiatric wards for violent behavior before, but released after short periods, diagnosed as "not dangerous."

"The psychiatrist said he had a little slip. That little slip was my sister's murder," the man said.

The murdering husband is due to be discharged during Pessah, the man said. "A man who murdered in cold blood is a terrorist, and it doesn't matter to me whether he murdered an Arab or a Jew, his place is not in society. Yigal Amir murdered [Yitzhak] Rabin a month after my sister was murdered, and today he's in jail, where he can no longer murder or endanger his environment, while my sister's murderer is going free."

Nurit Rogel, mother of Einav, who was murdered by her

boyfriend who couldn't accept her leaving him, objected to treating the murderer as the victim and blasted judges for their lenience.

"Suddenly he had a psychotic slip," she said. "What, a murder is a slip? What contempt for human life. Of course, it happened at the very second he was pulling the trigger. We don't have capital punishment, but we do have life sentences. Why don't they implement it? Such a person should not be in jail, not be rehabilitated," she said.

Na'amat chairwoman Ofra Friedman said the victims of domestic violence have less rights than the aggressor, and criticized the police for giving up too easily, before trying to bring a violent husband to court.

Friedman said Na'amat was filing suit against the police, whom she charged with negligence in failing to act on the 11 complaints in the case of Sonia Yakobovitz.

"For years we've been urging women to complain when they're threatened or battered, and when they finally do, the police or the courts either ignore their plight or stand by doing nothing," she said. "Perhaps if they know they're liable to pay large sums for the damage they caused, they'd be more alert to carry out their duty."

Health funds ad, marketing expenditures restricted

By JUDY SEGEL

New government regulations have restricted the amount of money the four public health funds can spend on advertising and marketing and barred them from hiring expensive contractors to lure members of other insurers.

The regulations, signed by the ministers of health and finance, are aimed at bringing an end to "tremendous waste" and cheating that resulted from the three-year-old National Health Insurance Law, which allows free movement from one health fund to another.

The insurers were eager to get new members because their share of health taxes collected by the National Insurance Institute depends on the size of their membership (with additional compensation for the elderly).

As a result, the health funds hired contractors who offered gifts for switching insurers, and some went so far as to forge people's signatures to pocket fees for signing up members.

The Health Ministry this year allows Kupat Holim Chalit a maximum marketing and advertising budget of NIS 11.4 million; Maccabi NIS 7m; Menzies NIS 6m; and Leumi NIS 6m. During the last few years, the insurers spent many times those figures for promotion purposes.

The insurers are not limited in the amount of information they send to their own members; however, "The ministry will receive quarterly reports from the insurers on their expenses for marketing and advertising, and any insurer found to use contractors will be punished by a reduction of marketing budgets and other sanctions."

In addition, residents may change health funds only by filling out a form in a post office.

Restaurant sued for refusing the disabled

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The management of a Jaffa restaurant does not allow handicapped people to enter on a regular basis, saying it reflects badly on the place, according to a radio recording used as evidence in a suit filed by a disabled woman in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

Batla Sheshian is suing the Ganef Rosmari club for NIS 40,000 in damages, because of their refusal to let her participate in a singles evening last year.

Galei Zahar radio reporter Tom Shinar, who interviewed the

restaurant manager shortly after the incident, played his tape of the interview to the court yesterday.

The manager was heard saying it is against the restaurant's regulations to allow people confined to a wheelchair to enter.

"Allowing disabled people to enter creates a bad impression on other people," she said, explaining that the management believes the presence of disabled people is an indication that a place is no longer popular and has deteriorated.

The defense intends to argue that the owners did not break the law.

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NEWS

in brief

Minister demands review of jubilee singers' fees

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday asked the Ministerial Committee on Symbols and Ceremonies to intervene in the setting of fees for performers in the special *Pa'amonei Hayovel* jubilee celebrations in Jerusalem. Levy cited public opposition to the high fees set by two performers in particular: Rita and Ofra Haza. "Paying tens of thousands of dollars from state coffers to hear one or two songs is not appropriate for our country or society," Levy wrote. He suggested that children singing in school choirs would be more appropriate.

Jerusalem Post Staff

MKS learn Dubek cigs have too much nicotine

The Knesset State Control Committee yesterday discussed suing Dubek over the quantity of carcinogens in its cigarettes. MK Ra'anana Cohen (Labor) who requested the meeting, said the State Comptroller's Report showed some 5,000 people die annually here from smoking-related cancers. According to Canadian lab tests, he said, Dubek cigarettes have 15% more carcinogens than the company admits and this is a public health hazard. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said he had asked the state to sue Dubek and US cigarette manufacturers, but the prosecutor's office was foot-dragging. Chairman Yossi Katz asked the prosecution to report to the committee within 60 days. *Batsheva Tsor*

Man gets 5 years for axing ex-girlfriend

A 45-year-old man convicted of attacking his former girlfriend with an axe and knife was sentenced to five-and-a-half years in prison and two years suspended by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court several days ago. The sentence was made public yesterday. In November 1997, the man became angry with the woman for cutting off their relations and threatened to kill her. He then attacked her, breaking several of her limbs with an axe and a meat-tenderizing hammer and stabbing her with a commando knife.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Teen murder suspects late for court

Tel Aviv District Court Judge Amnon Strashnov yesterday reminded the Prisons Service's failure to get to court on time the two minors charged with murdering youth leader Tomer Hirsch in the WIZO youth village in Nahalat Yehuda. It was the second time that the two 17-year-olds did not arrive on time for the hearing. Strashnov postponed the hearing to next month and placed a publication ban on the conclusions of their psychiatric examinations.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Egyptian paper: Talmud is dangerous farce

The Talmud was called "the most dangerous farce to desecrate religion in human history" in an article that appeared in the Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram* this week. The article, by Mahmoud Said Kardi, which appeared in the religion section, also said the Talmud should be faithfully translated into Arabic so that "the true face of the Jewish personality that rules Israel today and causes the rejection of the principle of land for peace" can be known.

Ilim

Principal's son kidnapped, beaten

The 16-year-old son of the principal of a high school in the North was kidnapped and beaten by two youths yesterday, apparently because of a quarrel they had with his father. According to police, the boy was taken into the woods, where his kidnappers stripped him naked, beat him, and attempted to sexually assault him. The two are being sought.

Ilim

Israelis split over Jewish identity

When asked whether they identified themselves as Jews, Israelis, or both, about one-third of the population will pick each answer, according to a recent survey of 1,300 Israeli Jews that Telesaker conducted. However, among Israeli-born 12- to 18-year-olds the number identifying itself as Israeli rises to 45 percent. In contrast, 53% of recent immigrants from the Soviet Union identify themselves as Jews, and only 10% as Israelis, the poll found. It also found that people who are left-wing politically are more likely to call themselves Israeli, while right-wingers prefer to label themselves Jewish.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Two injured, 16 arrested in family feud

Two people were injured — a man lightly-to-moderately and a woman lightly — and 16 people were arrested in a battle between two feuding families in the Western Galilee village of Sha'ab Tuesday afternoon and evening. The fight started when two members of one family entered a parcel of land whose ownership is in dispute between the families. The feud has been going on for several years, and in a similar battle that erupted 18 months ago, one man was seriously injured and remains in a coma. *Ilim*

Weizman: Youth should pursue high-tech areas

More young people must pursue high-tech careers, so as to fill the current shortage of programmers and engineers and make it unnecessary to "import" them from India and elsewhere, President Ezer Weizman said yesterday.

Speaking at the annual convention of the Education Ministry's Science and Technology Administration at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, Weizman added that industry should invest in educational programs to encourage this.

Two such programs, linking high-tech companies and local schools, received the Science and Technology Education Prize at the conference. The winners were Scitex and the ORT Yad Giora High School in Herzliya, and El-Op and the Ben-Gurion High School in Ness Ziona.

Jerusalem Post Staff

12,000 Palestinian Christians allowed into Israel

Israel yesterday allowed thousands of Palestinian Christians to visit Nazareth and Jerusalem for the festival of the Annunciation. Shlomo Dror, government coordinator in the territories, estimated that about 12,000 Christians from the West Bank visited Nazareth and Jerusalem to mark the festival. They were taking advantage of special one-day permits handed out for the holiday to married Christians over 25 and to youths under 16.

According to Christian belief, the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary in Nazareth and told her she would give birth to Jesus. *AP*

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Pullback options

A couple of decades ago, most Arab regimes not only refused to make peace with Israel but demanded its destruction. Today, while still accusing it of rejecting this option, most Arab states insist that Israel should make a compromise peace.

That's not paradise, but it is genuine progress.

Of course, nowadays Arab leaders — and European ones plus lots of Israelis — are strongly criticizing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government. They say it has no intention of making any real progress in the peace process. But, um, er, we all know that accusation is false, right?

Well, we'll soon see, as the US launches a plan for breaking the current deadlock. To hear the Israeli cabinet's debate, this is a certified, treacherous anti-Israel scheme. Yet, in fact, the Clinton administration's proposal is quite reasonable, seeking an Israeli withdrawal from only 13 percent of the West Bank and a slowdown — not freeze — in building on settlements.

Some 60% of that territory would remain in Israel's hands. With Palestinian-ruled areas still islands surrounded by the IDF, Israel retains ample leverage for future negotiations. Moreover, the pullback would occur in several stages — Netanyahu's own idea — with each step depending on the Palestinian Authority acting effectively to stop terrorism.

Why isn't there more US pressure on Israel for much bigger concessions? The American approach is based on three principles, all derived from experience.

First, progress is only possible if both parties want to advance. Trying to force rapid headway or demanding big concessions only brings rejection and increased antagonism between the parties. European leaders have yet to grasp that point.

Second, the main US priority is to keep the peace process alive to avoid losing previous gains, any hope for a solution, and a relatively calm situation.

Finally, the US has no specific interest in any detail of an agreement. It simply wants an outcome acceptable to both sides. American proposals don't introduce new elements but combine Israeli and Palestinian demands while trying to split the difference.

Thus this is a proposal which Israel should be able to accept, not because of any American threats but because it is quite moderate, even by Netanyahu's professed position.

In that context, having to deal with the new US plan starkly poses the Netanyahu government's policy choices: Option A, advance the peace process to successful completion by a willingness to compromise between what Israel wants and the Palestinians might accept. This approach views negotiated agreements, including security guarantees and material gains, as enhancing Israel's position. But that's the stance of the Israeli opposition, not of the current government.

Option B, keep the process alive by solving interim problems.

This might mean a real impasse in a year, when final-status talks would probably deadlock over a Palestinian state, settlements, and east Jerusalem. Nevertheless, this approach would maximize Netanyahu's popularity among voters while preserving some international support for Israel's position.

Option C, stall the process, and thus essentially destroy it now. This stance safeguards the coalition but sacrifices Israel's international interests, destroys Netanyahu's credibility, and very possibly sparks violence. Such a strategy may seem superficially clever — Israel demands everything and yields nothing. But since no one else accepts these claims, the result is the kind of empty, purely rhetorical victory that Arab states "won" by taking intransigent positions in past decades.

What will the government do? Probably negotiate several months to get the deal down a percentage point, proclaiming this to be a triumph. In short, Option B might eventually prevail over option C, the best outcome which can be expected but one that is, nonetheless, rather cold comfort.

Even so, the costs of this game are bigger than the gains.

By constantly acting so as to encourage more direct US involvement, Israel is damaging its own interests and the chances for successful negotiations. For 30 years, Israel insisted on resolving disputes through direct talks for good reason. Only a bilateral framework forces each side to link gains to compromises. Otherwise, the parties always run to the mediator to gain more advantage, make constant propaganda gestures, and draw out talks needlessly hoping for some new gift from the intermediary.

If Israel tries to squeeze more out of the deal, so will the Palestinians, so that in the end each side's new advantages will cancel each other out.

The further embittering and mistrust in Israel-Palestinian relations creates an account that will be paid in the future.

Insisting on a withdrawal of one more percent would damage Israel's security requires pretending that intransigence is cost-free. The Hebron agreement well illustrates these problems.

Six months of negotiations gained this government nothing, while added mistrust undermined the agreement's implementation. It is hypocritical to insist that the Hebron agreement reiterated Israel's right to choose the extent of withdrawal while rejecting the equally significant provision committing Israel to a third pullback.

Since then, 14 months have brought no advance in the peace process, coupled with a serious deterioration in Israel's regional and international position. The sad truth is that this situation will probably continue for most of 1998.

The writer is a senior resident scholar at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies and editor of the Middle East Review of International Affairs.

The Region



Barry Rubin

The Czech list

Prague's economic performance, until recently the envy of all ex-communist governments, no longer offers the impeccable data which once made it the EU's leading candidate for full membership

By NIGEL STEPHENSON

PRAGUE — For the Czech Republic, with an economy that was the envy of other East European countries and a stable, confident government at the helm, joining the European Union used to look like plain sailing.

But that was before the country was battered by the storms of 1997, which sank the currency and the government within six months and highlighted how much remained to be done to complete the Czechs' post-Communist transformation.

"When you have got political and economic turbulence, of course it slows you down. If you do not produce growth it is going to hurt you somewhere," said Pavel Telicka, deputy foreign minister and chief negotiator in next week's EU accession talks.

Despite the wrenching changes of last year, more political turbulence lies ahead. Prime Minister Josef Tousek, appointed after the fall of former premier Vaclav Klaus in November, agreed to lead a caretaker cabinet until an early general election expected in June.

However, as five East European states and Cyprus each prepare for membership talks on March 31, Telicka sees no major obstacles to Czech entry.

"I would not see issues of a non-standard character which are really obstacles, stumbling blocks which would complicate the negotiations for months. The issues to be tackled by our side are quite reasonable, quite feasible to be negotiated," he said. Asked when the Czechs could join the Union, Telicka said the year "2000 X," adding that 2002 or 2003 was an

optimistic but realistic target. This would allow longer for talks than when former European Free Trade Association members Finland, Sweden and Austria joined in 1995.

Telicka said the Czechs sought no exemptions from the EU but would want transition periods or special regimes in a number of areas, such as sales of state agricultural land or in bringing the environment up to EU standards.

"We can finish negotiations in my opinion in three years' time. That will be three times longer than the EFTA countries which, of course, were better prepared. But we are not starting now. Practically we started years ago," Telicka said.

Last year's severe economic downturn came as a salutary lesson to some Czech leaders who had bragged that the Czech Republic already met more of the Maastricht criteria on monetary union than some EU members.

With bulging demand-fuelled trade and current account deficits, the crown came under heavy selling pressure and the central bank was forced to float it in late May. The government pushed through two austerity packages in as many months.

Economic output growth slid to 1.0 percent last year from 3.9 percent, according to figures published on Monday.

In a speech to a banking conference in February, the EU ambassador to Prague Johannes Ter Haar effectively told the Czechs to get back to basics.

"The main priority for applicant countries now is to create the conditions for fast economic growth, within a framework of macroeconomic stability. This will be

achieved largely through structural reforms," Ter Haar said.

There have been encouraging signs. The trade deficit narrowed in February to 3.6 billion crowns (\$105.7 million) from 4.6 billion in January and 11.8 billion in February 1997.

Inflation is higher than the central bank would like but far lower than in Poland or Hungary. The crown has regained much of the ground it lost after it was floated, but may come under renewed attack ahead of the election.

"If you learn your lessons, if you draw some experiences and read-just your policies, then the experience of last year might not be a loss of time but a benefit," Telicka said.

WHEN the European Commission recommended the Czechs for EU talks, it said the key economic tasks included completing industrial restructuring and strengthening the banking system.

The government is pressing ahead with plans to sell large stakes in three state-controlled banks to foreign investors, but a final decision will come only after the election.

But days before the talks, relations between Prague and the EU have been surprisingly soured by a row over apples.

In January, the Czechs imposed a 24,000 ton annual import quota on EU table apples, saying they threatened domestic producers. EU ministers responded last week, agreeing to suspend preferential import tariffs on Czech pork, poultry and fruit juice.

Prime Minister Josef Tousek later called the row "a lovers' tiff before getting engaged".

Commission officials said it may be symptomatic of problems which must be addressed if the Czech economy is to be competitive in the single market.

Telicka sees the row resolved in a few months.

Some analysts have said it is more a result of domestic political considerations ahead of the election.

However, the vote is also seen unlikely to produce any significant change of policy on EU membership as all mainstream parties are in favour.

"There is basically a broad consensus on this issue and I do not think a change of government would adversely affect negotiations with the EU," said Jiri Pehe, political analyst and head of President Vaclav Havel's political department.

Away from economic issues, Pehe sees Czechs facing psychological adjustments as they approach the EU.

"Although the majority of people want to be part of the EU, what you still see is a very provincial country which finds it hard to cope with foreigners on its territory," he said, adding this was evident in some Czechs' attitude towards the country's gypsy minority.

The Commission said in July that discrimination against gypsies was a problem. Hundreds of Czech and Slovak gypsies sought asylum in Britain late last year, though all but one case was turned down.

The Czech government has since announced a series of measures to improve the lot of the gypsy population.

The Commission has also told the Czechs to tighten up control of its border to the east which will become the European Union's

eastern frontier.

The opening of borders after the 1989 fall of Communism has led to thousands of people migrating across Eastern Europe, drawn by higher living standards in the West, and officials say many migrants are drawn into crime, such as prostitution and drug smuggling.

Tightening borders is likely to create a new division with Slovakia, the Czechs' partner in the former Czechoslovakia, which was not among the countries chosen for the first wave of EU expansion talks.

"For us it is extremely important that the Slovaks accede either at the same time or as soon as possible," Telicka said.

For many Czechs, integration with the West after four decades of separation until the fall of communism is a homecoming to their rightful place at the heart of Europe.

Some Czechs have been wary of efforts to join NATO because of their experience as members of the now defunct Soviet-led Warsaw Pact, whose forces invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968.

EU membership is less controversial and the latest opinion poll puts public support for joining at 61 percent, a figure with which Telicka says he is comfortable.

He said polls have indicated that if a referendum, which all major parties have said would be acceptable, were to be held on EU membership, some 75 percent would back it.

"We have other reasons, historical reasons, in comparison with other countries, for which I think the people will, if asked, raise their hands," Telicka said.

(Reuters)

Ukrainians split between 'red' and 'rose'

By ROSTISLAV KHOTIN

DNIPROPETROVSK, Ukraine — A silver Rolls Royce with darkened windows is parked in front of Ukraine's oldest steel mill in the eastern city of Dnipropetrovsk — near a monument to a local Bolshevik leader.

The car belongs to one of the "local businessmen" or "new Ukrainians" — citizens who quickly entered the ranks of the nouveau riches after the former Soviet state of 50 million tasted the capitalism which had been hated for so many years.

The vehicle's appearance in heavily industrialized eastern Ukraine is seen as a sign that this one-time Communist bastion may have shifted its views — at least partly.

"The 'red directors' have turned into 'red capitalists' and they are extremely interested in stability and the status quo to be achieved through effective privatization," said Serhiy Zgonik, a banker from Dnipropetrovsk's Yutokobank.

"They are no longer soldiers of fortune at the state's service, but real owners. Now they are for reforms," he added.

Ukraine's ruling elite origina-

almost exclusively from this region.

Dnipropetrovsk has yielded President Leonid Kuchma and his Prime Minister Valery Pustovoitenko, former prime minister Pavlo Lazarenko and dozens of top government officials.

Volodymyr Sherbytskyi, a son of Dnipropetrovsk, ran Soviet Ukraine for 17 years and was the closest ally of Kremlin leader Leonid Brezhnev, himself from the same region.

"Of course Kiev is Ukraine's kitchen, but the ingredients come from Dnipropetrovsk," said Privatbank's Natalya Napadovska.

Ukraine's largest commercial bank is based in Dnipropetrovsk. The city features many newly renovated office complexes, banks and luxury shops — lining streets which bear names like Lenin, Marx and Red October Square.

On a Dnipropetrovsk-Kiev train, people discuss metal prices in Egypt and the easiest way to get chemical export licenses.

"People here have no time to carry red banners," said Napadovska, referring to frequent protests which take place in other eastern regions by citizens fed up with difficult economic conditions and nostalgic for

the security of the Soviet era.

"It's an old stereotype that all of eastern Ukraine is red. Dnipropetrovsk isn't red. Maybe it's pink," Zgonik said.

Local opinion polls said center-left and center-right parties are favorites in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

Dnipropetrovsk also remains the exception in this eastern region of Ukraine, home to the world's largest ethnic Russian community of about 11 million people in that it is looking to Ukraine and not Russia for leadership. Feelings of wanting close ties with the former "big brother" are strong in southern and eastern Ukraine, which backed Kuchma when he campaigned for closer ties with Russia in the 1994 presidential poll.

"People here don't want to live in Russia. They want to be in Ukraine," said Olexander Melukhin, editor of *Telenedelnya* weekly, the largest-circulation paper in Dnipropetrovsk. "They speak Russian but politically they are Ukrainians."

Steelworker Serhiy Kravets, his face lit up by molten steel being poured from a huge vat at the Petrovsky steel mill, said Russia is no longer necessary. "We are satis-

fied with the Ukrainian variant," he said.

The feeling has even spread to the Communist-held eastern city of Zaporizhzhia, this year to become home to a new car-making joint-venture between South Korea's Daewoo and Ukraine's AvtoZAZ.

The Koreans have promised \$1.3 billion in investment, the biggest in Ukraine's post-Soviet history, have started paying off delayed salaries, and promise a \$250 monthly wage, which is nearly three times that of the average worker.

"The mood is fine now," said Andriy Kazakov, a 27-year-old worker, adding that he and his two friends would vote for reform-minded Reforms and Order party.

The Donbass coal mining basin, which includes most of the two eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, is expected to remain a Communist stronghold.

The lion's share of Ukraine's debt of unpaid salaries and pensions — currently at five billion hryvnias (\$2.5 billion) — originates from the coal sector and Donbass in particular.

Mykhailo Volynets, head of the independent miners' trade union, said a quarter of the miners would

vote Communist.

"The miners will vote not for Communists themselves but for the past that they represent," Volynets said. "They still remember when they received salaries and pensions."

In the current parliament, nearly the entire Luhansk contingent consists of Communist Party members. Leftists also represent the Donetsk region, including Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko.

Volodymyr Rozhyn, 30, and his wife, Rayisa, live in a dark and dirty turn-of-the-century barn now converted into a house — without central heating, plumbing or a telephone — as they wait for salaries now five months overdue.

His mother-in-law in her 60s, favors the Communists.

"They are for the ordinary people," she said. "Under the Communists I had money and food, not hunger as I do now."

But Volodymyr said he has nearly given up on everyone.

"I want to spit on politics, I don't care — Communists, democrats. I just want to be paid and would agree to work for half my salary, as long as it was paid in time."

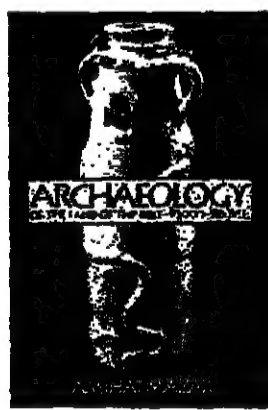
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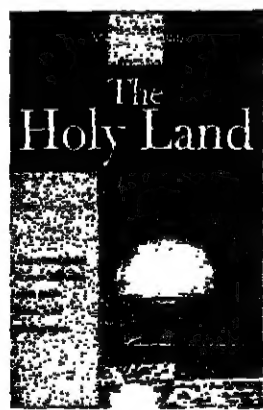
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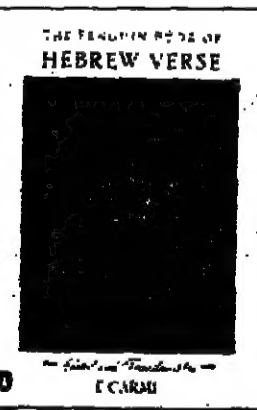
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US, EU at odds over Kosovo

By ROBERT MAHONEY

BONN (Reuters) - The US and European powers met yesterday to discuss putting pressure on Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to end fighting in the mainly Albanian province of Kosovo.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was expected to urge Russia, Britain, France, Germany, and Italy to tighten sanctions against Yugoslavia during the one-day meeting in Bonn. However, the European powers hope a softer line will encourage Milosevic to open a dialogue with Kosovo's ethnic Albanians.

Albright met separately with the foreign ministers of Russia, Germany, and France before the conference of the six-nation Contact Group, which took place against the backdrop of further fighting in Kosovo.

Heavy fighting erupted between Serbian police and Albanians on Tuesday after what Serbian authorities said was an ambush of a police patrol by separatist guerrillas which killed one policeman and wounded another.

Western diplomats in Belgrade said it was possible the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) had provoked the fighting to influence the Bonn talks.

"It is safe to assume that the Serb police would not have wanted to get embroiled in any

action which would hamper Belgrade's position ahead of the meeting," one said.

The Contact Group powers fear the Kosovo conflict could draw in neighboring Albania and Macedonia, which has a large ethnic Albanian population, and threaten the Balkans with another full-scale war.

German police sealed off Bonn's government quarter where the talks were being held and prevented Kosovo Albanian demonstrators from holding a rally near the venue. Organizers said they expected up to 40,000 protesters to gather at a police-approved site, on the opposite bank of the Rhine River from the talks venue.

US officials said Albright looked unlikely to convince the meeting to increase sanctions against Milosevic. The US focus would therefore be to maintain existing pressure on Yugoslavia.

"Belgrade is still ignoring the Contact Group's key demands. Serbian security police are digging in, not pulling out," Albright told a news briefing in Rome, on her way to Bonn. "We will need to maintain credible pressure on Belgrade to end repression and restore autonomy [in Kosovo]."

Washington last week talked of extending the initial sanctions applied on Belgrade following a crackdown by Serbian police on separatists in

which at least 80 people in the predominantly ethnic Albanian region died.

But a US official accompanying Albright acknowledged they were now fighting to prevent a backsliding of the penalties the Contact Group had agreed at a meeting in London on March 9.

European diplomatic sources said limited moves earlier this week by Milosevic towards conciliation with ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, such as agreement to implement a long-standing education pact, could be enough to prevent sanctions.

One diplomatic source suggested Belgrade could even be rewarded with readmittance to the 54-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) if it agrees to accept an OSCE mediator, such as former Spanish prime minister Felipe Gonzalez, in negotiations with ethnic Albanians.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who met Albright for dinner in Cologne on Tuesday night, said the Contact Group talks meant his meeting with Albright "might be of greater importance" than previous such sessions.

But Primakov dodged questions on what stance Russia, a traditional Serbian ally which has already balked at the penalties on Belgrade, would take at the talks.



Parents embrace outside the school where Tuesday's shooting took place. Four girls and a teacher were killed in the Arkansas attack for which authorities said there was 'no explanation.'

Clinton pledges US will help prevent further massacres in Africa

By STEVE HOLLAND

KIGALI (Reuters) - US President Bill Clinton, making a six-nation African tour, visited Kigali yesterday to meet survivors of Rwanda's 1994 genocide and pledge US help to prevent a recurrence of such massacres.

"I have come today to pay the respects of my nation to all who suffered and all who perished in the Rwandan genocide," he said after meeting a group of survivors of the slaughter.

"It is my hope that through this trip, in every corner of the world today and tomorrow their story will be told - that four years ago, in this beautiful, green, lovely land, a conscious decision was made, by those then in power, that the peoples of this country would not live side by side in peace," he said.

"During the 90 days that began on April 6 in 1994, Rwanda experienced the most intensive slaughter in this blood-filled century we are about to leave," Clinton said, adding that the killing had been carried out with a swiftness that exceeded even that of the Nazi gas chambers in World War II.

He told reporters later that he and others across the world had not at first appreciated the extent of the genocide, but had been deeply affected by his meeting with survivors of the slaughter.

"Just listening to them gave me

reason to hope," he said.

Clinton also referred to the summit he was due to hold with central and east African leaders on his return to Entebbe, Uganda later in the day, saying the meeting would seek ways to prevent future genocide.

The world needed to understand the potential for such crimes was not limited to Rwanda or Africa, he said. "Genocide can occur anywhere... we must have global vigilance."

Clinton, who flew in from Entebbe for the shortest stop on his 12-nation tour, was met at the airport by Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu.

The two leaders and their wives walked along a red carpet from the aircraft, pausing to admire a group of spear-carrying Rwandans wearing green skirts and grass head-dresses and dancing to the pounding of drums.

Further on, as the drummers raised the tempo of their performance, the presidential party watched women in elegant red and purple costumes performing traditional dances.

A crowd of Rwandans standing on top of the airport terminal building cheered and waved US and Rwandan flags as Clinton and his entourage walked towards the building.

In the terminal building Clinton spent an hour meeting six survivors of the genocide, and afterwards unveiled a \$30 million program to aid justice

systems in Rwanda and neighboring countries of Africa's Great Lakes region, and pledged \$2 million to a new fund to help survivors of the genocide rebuild their lives.

Among those taking part in the meeting, Gloria Uwimpuhwe, whose mother, father, and four siblings were killed, said she had been impressed by how closely Clinton listened to the stories of each of the survivors and responded to them. "You could read it on his face," she said.

Uwimpuhwe said she had told Clinton how men "killed my mother and father where they were hiding with a neighbor. Two of my sisters and two of my brothers were also killed." She said she is not angry that the international community had not acted earlier to stop the genocide, but said she is frustrated that more is not being done to halt continued sporadic attacks.

"There are killings still going on in the country, but the international community is not acting against that," she said, "and now trying to help people in Rwanda look back on our history and make it positive. Now, everything is negative."

Also present was Venuste Karasira, one of 40 survivors of a slaughter of nearly 4,000 people who had sought safety at a technical school just outside Kigali. Karasira lost an arm in the violence.

Another participant, Josephine

Murebwayire, lost her two children and is now raising six orphans from Rwandan violence. "I had machete cuts on my head, my teeth were taken out, and my legs were also cut," she said, describing what she had told Clinton of her ordeal.

Clinton said later the international community must bear its share of responsibility for the genocide, for not acting quickly enough, and for allowing refugee camps to become shelters for killers.

After meeting the survivors, Clinton presented his hosts with a plaque reading: "In the memory of victims of genocide, to be placed on a monument to the victims."

Bizimungu gave Clinton a small carved model of the official genocide monument to be erected later, depicting two people standing with their arms upraised in a gesture of renewal, over images of death and horror representing the genocide.

A US official said the aid package is focused on shoring up judicial systems in the region because "people have to be brought to justice and you can't do that unless you have a functioning judicial system, and that's something we know how to help with."

Rwanda's existing judicial system has been overburdened by the thousands of genocide suspects the country is attempting to try, officials said.

Authorities at loss to explain reason for Arkansas ambush

By PEGGY HARRIS

JONESBORO, Arkansas (AP) - A 13-year-old boy warned friends "he had a lot of killing to do" after he was killed by a girl on Monday.

A day later, police said, he and his 11-year-old cousin lured classmates out of school with a false fire alarm, then mowed them down with gunfire.

Four girls and an English teacher who shielded a student from the attack were killed in the ambush. Eleven others - 10 students and a teacher - were wounded. Six people remained hospitalized yesterday, one in critical condition.

Hearings for the boys were scheduled for yesterday, while authorities searched for answers to how the boys got their weapons and why they attacked.

"There's no explanation in my opinion why an 11-year-old or 13-year-old would do something like this," Craighead County Sheriff Dale Haas said. "It breaks my heart."

Classmates said the 13-year-old had recently broken up with his girlfriend. A day earlier, he had said he "had a lot of killing to do," schoolmate Jamie Clevenger told The Jonesboro Sun.

Another student said she saw the 11-year-old by the fire alarm, then saw him running out of the school

once it was triggered.

Authorities said as many as 27 shots were fired. Youngsters scrambled as some of their classmates fell bleeding and cried as they waited for emergency workers.

The dead students were identified as Natalie Brooks, Paige Ann Herring, and Stephanie Johnson, all 12, and Brittany R. Varner, who was 11. Teacher Shannon Wright, 32, died Tuesday night after surgery for wounds to her chest and abdomen, the county coroner said. Students said she stepped in front of another student as the shots rang out.

Authorities didn't release the boys' names, but the Sun identified them as Mitchell Johnson, 13, and his cousin Andrew Golden, 11. Under state law, children under 14 are charged only in Juvenile Court and can be held only until they turn 18.

But prosecutor Brent Davis said his office is "trying to ascertain exactly what our options are" in bringing more serious charges.

US Attorney Paula Casey was investigating whether the 13-year-old could be charged with federal firearms charges, though it is likely the 11-year-old would be off-limits.

The Arkansas shooting was at least the third fatal shooting in a US school in the past five months.

Russian legislators question acting PM's abilities

By IVAN RODIN

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament cast doubt yesterday over whether Acting Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko could win approval from the chamber for a full-time premiership.

"He is little known. He has never governed," said Gennady Seleznyov, who chairs the State Duma lower house.

"He does not have the economic experience to run Russia's huge economy. If he is proposed to head the government, all this would be a major obstacle to his approval," Seleznyov said.

Kiriyenko, 35, was asked to form a new cabinet by President Boris Yeltsin after the Kremlin leader unexpectedly sacked the government on Monday. He is currently meeting leaders of key political parties for consultations.

The powerful Communist party said it would not back a new cabinet unless it changed its tough reform policies, but other key parties in the Duma were less outspoken.

Yeltsin dismissed the old cabinet, including veteran premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, saying he did not want to change the political course but sought a more dynamic team to carry it out.

He gave Kiriyenko, the fuel and energy minister who had been less than a year in the government, a

free hand to form a new cabinet.

But the president stopped short of naming Kiriyenko, widely seen as the strongest candidate, as his permanent choice.

"If the government persists in its course, we will not support any candidate," Gennady Zyuganov, whose Communist Party dominates the Duma, told reporters after meeting Kiriyenko.

"He is in a serious situation," Seleznyov said of the acting premier.

The communists have repeatedly demanded a "government of popular trust," but the Kremlin insists the cabinet should be a team of professionals rather than a cross-party coalition.

The Communist Party leader said he discussed the political and economic situation in Russia with Kiriyenko.

"We cannot make any final con-

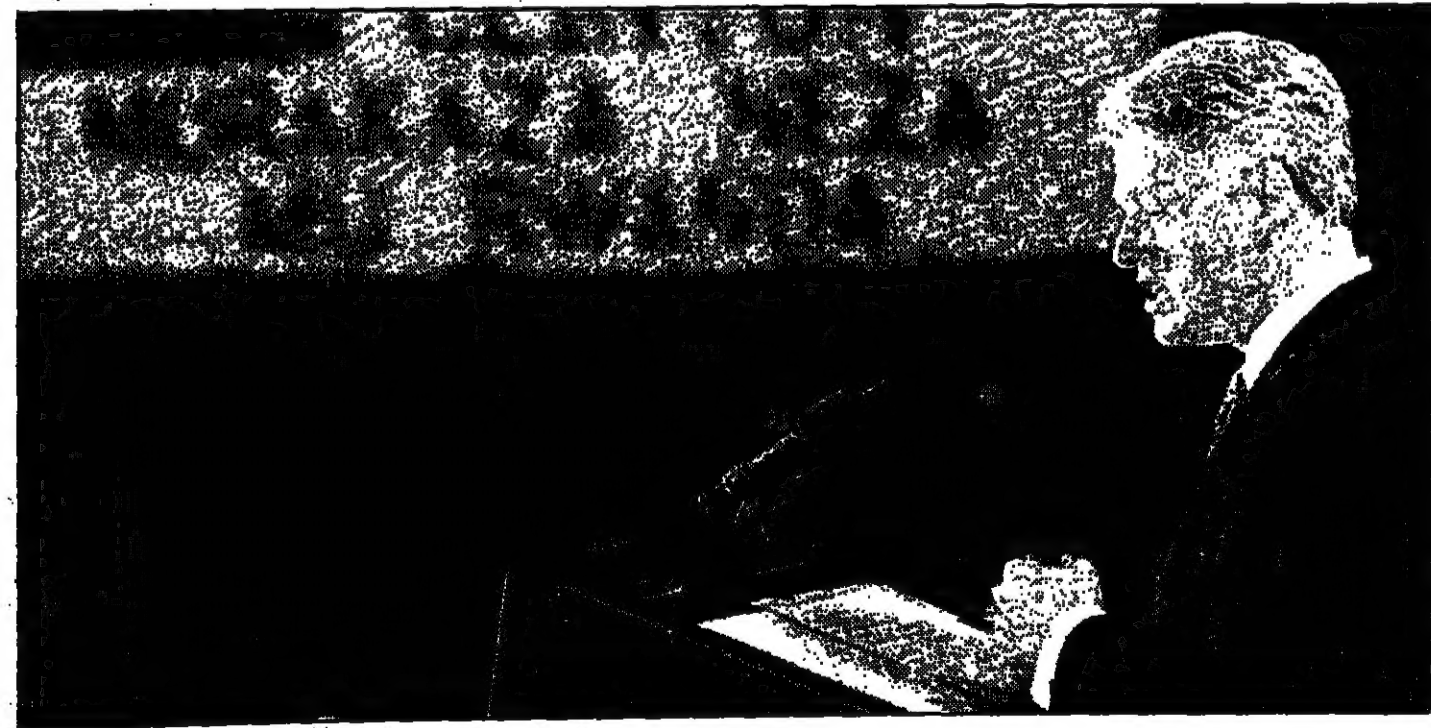
clusions so far," Zyuganov said. "He [Kiriyenko] lacks detailed information on most economic issues, except those he was in charge of."

The deputy leader of the liberal Yabloko party, Sergei Ivanenko, said the lack of clarity about Kiriyenko's status complicated consultations.

"The ambiguity of his position makes consultations difficult, because no one knows the weight of his promises," he said.

Ivanenko also said the fact Kiriyenko was a novice in politics with less than a year of experience in government made it more difficult for deputies to make up their minds.

"We shall wait and see," said Ivanenko, whose party vigorously opposed the previous government. "We lack information and that is why we find it hard to come up with any opinions."



US President Bill Clinton speaks to survivors of the 1994 Rwandan massacre at the Kigali airport yesterday. Clinton expressed regret the US did not act more quickly to prevent the killings.

Papon's wife dies; trial to be suspended

BORDEAUX France (Reuters) - The wife of accused Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon died overnight and his trial, which had been due to end this week, was expected to be suspended, lawyers said yesterday.

Pauline Papon, 88, who had been seriously ill for several months, died of cancer at their home in Gréz-Argentan, east of Paris.

Papon, 87, immediately left Bordeaux, where he has been on trial for crimes against humanity since October 8, rejecting requests from magistrates that he stay to allow the trial to end on Friday with a verdict as scheduled, officials said.

French radio reported that he

told magistrates: "I am in the habit of attending funeral vigils for my family."

He left for home by car in the middle of the night under police escort.

The near certain suspension is the latest twist in Papon's trial, the longest in French legal history, which was repeatedly held up by the defendant's frail health during the first three months.

"For more than 50 years, the victims have been deprived of the right to grieve for their loved ones. Do you think we would deprive Mr. Papon of the right to bury his wife?" lawyer Gerard Boulanger said.

Boulanger predicted the trial would be suspended until next

Monday at the earliest. "We will respect the court's decision."

Papon is on bail and presiding judge Jean-Louis Castagnede could theoretically order police to bring him back, but that seemed unlikely, lawyers said.

He is accused of ordering the arrest for deportation of 1,560 Jews, 223 of them children, from 1942 to 1944, when he was the number two official in the Bordeaux region and supervisor of its Service for Jewish Questions.

Proceedings were started against him in 1981 but were repeatedly obstructed by senior government officials unwilling to see their country's unsavory wartime past dragged into the open.

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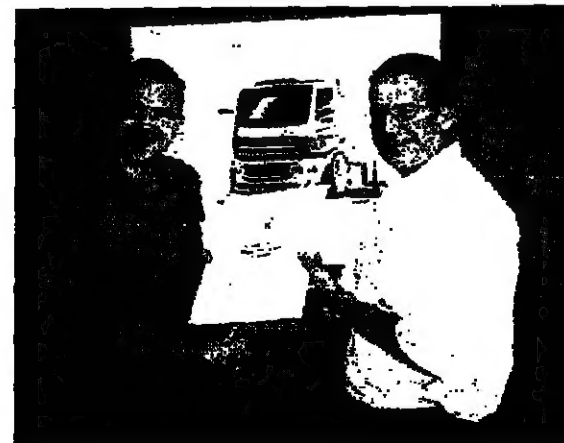
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Cantonese dethrones English in Hong Kong

By MAGGIE FARLEY

HONG KONG — At a recent college fair, a gaggle of boys in crisp British blazers and ties bypassed a booth emblazoned with a Union Jack with just a quick glance backward. They headed toward the stall of a Chinese university — and toward Hong Kong's future.

"I like learning in Cantonese better because my English is very cheap," said one student from Po Leung Kuk school. "Hey," said a classmate, elbowing him in the ribs. "You mean poor."

Just as stamps and coins bearing Queen Elizabeth II's visage have melted out of circulation, and British citizens have trickled home since China took over Hong Kong on July 1, the use of English in this former British colony is slowly slipping.

In schools, courtrooms and government offices, the rounded tones of the queen's English are giving way to the dissonant diphthongs of Cantonese. In downtown shops, hotels and restaurants that have long catered to an international clientele, tourists are finding less fluent English and more blank looks and flustered giggles.

"English," noted Gladys Tang, an English professor at Chinese University here, "has changed from being a second language to being a foreign language." Barely eight months since returning to

Chinese sovereignty, Hong Kong has wedded itself to a future of Chinese. English, despite its importance in making the territory an international entrepot, seems destined to become the language of the past.

Half a century ago, on Ken Lee's first day of school here, the 13-year-old refugee from China couldn't understand a single word his British schoolmaster said. "But I knew that English was the key to success," said Lee, now the principal of a junior high school, "so I thought I had better learn." Under the stern eye of his teacher, a Roman Catholic priest, Lee started by memorizing the dictionary "from Z" upwards, then spent the summer reading the Charles Dickens novel *Nicholas Nickleby* repeatedly until he could nearly recite it. By the time he graduated from high school five years later, he said, "My English was better than my Chinese."

Lee still believes that English is the key to success, and 80 percent of Hong Kong's secondary schools chose to teach in English under British rule. But as colonial influence fades here, that zeal to learn English is becoming as old-fashioned as memorizing a dictionary — and test scores show that many Chinese students learning in English are not doing well in either language.

Out of a mixture of pragmatism and patriotism, Hong Kong's new

government has mandated that all public schools, with the exception of an elite group, teach in Hong Kong's mother tongue, Cantonese, starting this fall.

That decision is yet another step in the "Sino-fication" of Hong Kong. The usage of Chinese — the Cantonese dialect of Hong Kong and the Mandarin spoken as the standard on the mainland — is on the rise.

Hong Kong's new chief executive, Tung Chee-hwa, took the lead by giving his inaugural address last July in Cantonese, the first time the territory's leader had spoken to its citizens in their native tongue.

Other officials have followed suit in important policy speeches that once were made in English, then translated. Announcements in train stations and airports now repeat three times: in English, Cantonese and Mandarin.

Many of the changes seem like common sense for a territory where Chinese is the first language of 98 percent of the people.

Since the return to Chinese sovereignty, white-wigged judges still preside over courtrooms in the British manner, but now defendants can face justice in a language they understand. Top civil servants, once selected in part for their English ability, hold meetings and write memos in Chinese. And after nearly 10 years of searching for Chinese equivalents for English common

law terms, translators have finally finished putting Hong Kong's laws into Chinese.

"As we face a future with China, our priorities are changing," said one of Tung's Cabinet members, who speaks fluent English and Cantonese but admits to having to brush up on her Mandarin. "I'm ashamed to say I couldn't even write a proper letter in Chinese!" Part of the move is meant to help mold Hong Kong's new identity under Chinese rule. Each member of Hong Kong's new generation, Tung said in a recent speech, should "be a person who has deep love of our mother country, committed to the development of the mainland as well as Hong Kong, [a person who is] bicultural and trilingual." But many worry that Hong Kong's shift toward the mainland may mean a slow sacrifice of what makes it special — its unique international role.

"English ought to be given more importance than ever after the change of sovereignty," said Cheng Kai-ming, a professor of education at Hong Kong University. "One country, two systems" only when Hong Kong is different from other mainland cities in China. Headhunters are already finding that for positions that require Mandarin and English ability, many top candidates now come from the mainland.

"Some mainlanders can speak

excellent English as well as Putonghua (Mandarin)," said Lily Chu, the branch manager of Job Access in Hong Kong. "We recruit in China for positions in information technology, management and sales, and there are some very capable people who have made more of their opportunities than Hong Kong people."

Recruiters for British and American universities say that admissions of Hong Kong students are dropping as their English ability diminishes and more graduates apply to local and mainland schools.

"The standard of English is no longer so good in Hong Kong," said Andy Lam of the Center for Educational Development, which helps place Hong Kong students in colleges overseas. "There's not so much opportunity to make use of it here." For many students who speak Cantonese at home, school is the only place they are exposed to English, he points out.

The key to maintaining Hong Kong's internationalism lies with the schools. Most educators, including Lee, the principal who taught himself English the hard way, agree that students learn best in their own language.

But many in Hong Kong, especially parents, determined that their children have the best education, fear that Hong Kong's bilingualism will fade away — and along with it top jobs and opportunities. (LA Times)



Four-legged wonder

Albanian farmer Marjeta Colaku yesterday displayed a four-legged rooster in her yard in Katund i Ri, an industrial village 35 km. east of Tirana. Living in abject poverty, her family is now charging \$20 to allow the curious to see the rooster. (AP)

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IT TAKES A DREAM: The Story of Hadassah by Marlin Levin, Jerusalem, Gefen Publishing, 445pp. \$19.95.

By Joshua J. Adler

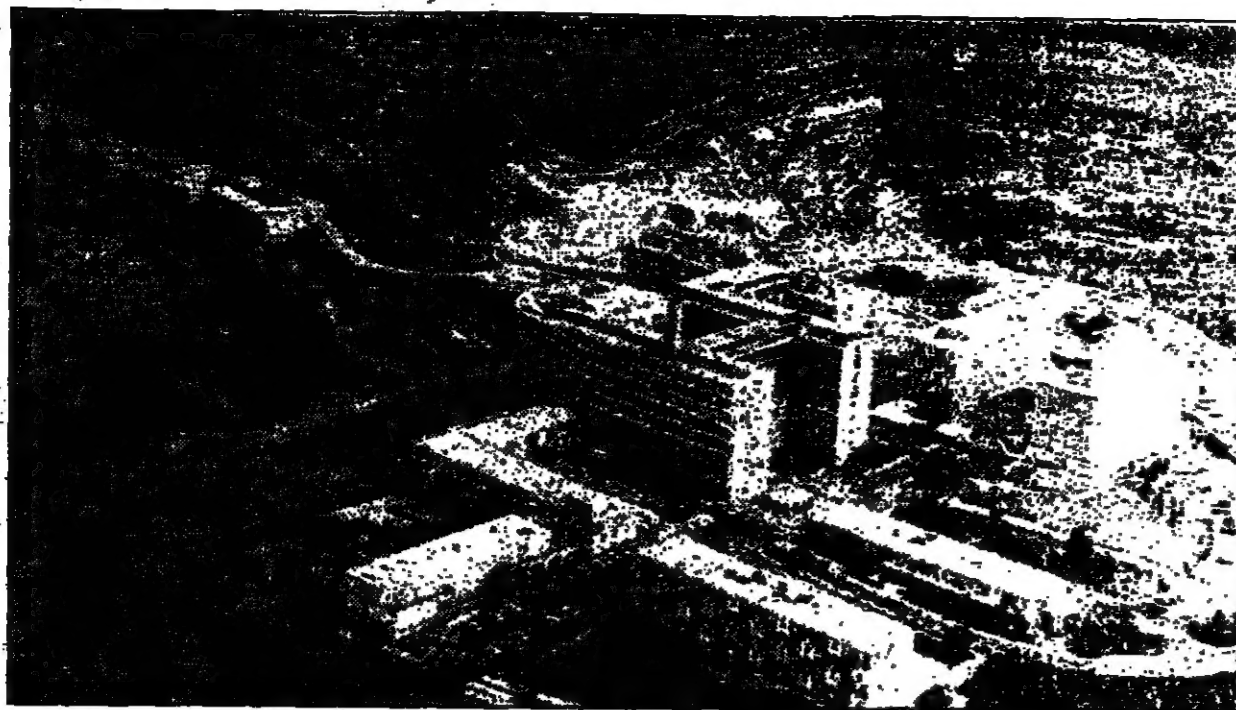
Hadassah women often claim that the history of their organization, founded at Temple Emanuel New York by Henrietta Szold in 1912, is an integral part of the history of Zionism and the State of Israel. Reading Marlin Levin's book confirms this claim.

It is difficult to think of anyone better qualified to tell the Hadassah-Israel story than this journalist. His first job since coming on aliyah in 1947 was with the *Palestine* (now *Jerusalem Post*) and for several decades he was a correspondent for *Time* magazine and various news services from this area of the world. During these five decades he has covered all of Israel's wars and was almost killed himself while working in the offices of the *Post* when terrorists bombed it in February 1948. This book is Levin's updated version of his earlier history of Hadassah called *Balm in Gilead*, published shortly before the Yom Kippur War and brings the Hadassah story up to date.

To most Israelis Hadassah is the name of a hospital; but there is a fascinating story behind this world renowned medical facility and the organization that stands behind it. The American organization began with fewer than 20 women and has expanded to include nearly 300,000 women with chapters in all the 50 states and many overseas branches. Hadassah's first project was to raise funds in order to send a nurse to Jerusalem to help alleviate the appalling health conditions: lack of trained medical personnel, the non-practice of basic hygiene even in medical facilities, malnutrition, eye disease, lice epidemics, and a high mortality rate during childbirth.

With the financial help of Nathan Straus, a philanthropist, two nurses — Rose Kaplan and Rachel Landy — arrived in Jerusalem on March 1913. They set up the first health station sponsored by the newly founded American women's organization. In addition to the difficult conditions under which the nurses had to work they were suspected by the Jewish population of being undercover missionaries, since until that time nearly all nurses they knew were nuns. During World War I the nurses were joined by the American Zionist Medical Unit, whose 44 members became the founders of the Hadassah Medical Organization in Eretz Yisrael.

During the 1930s Hadassah embarked on building a modern medical facility (until this time they had used the old Rothschild Hospital in central Jerusalem). This caused a monumental debate within the organization on where to build; they finally chose Mt. Scopus, though many felt this location was too distant from the dwellings of potential patients and also dangerous because it was surrounded by a hostile Arab population. Levin quotes Rose Halprin, a former Hadassah president, who claimed that the majority of its national board members were swayed toward the Scopus location because Judah Magnes's Hebrew University was located there and because of a promise (not honored till after the Six Day War) that the Jewish Agency would build Jewish neighborhoods and roads to the hospital. The cornerstone was laid in 1934



Hadassah Hospital — Ein Kerem in the early '80s

and building was completed four years later.

After functioning as the leading medical facility for the Allied forces during World War II, tragedy befell the organization in April 1948 when 76 of Hadassah's doctors and nurses were massacred by Arabs on their way from the city to Scopus. Levin mentions that British soldiers who were nearby and saw what was happening did nothing to halt the slaughter, and even the high commissioner, MacMillan, who was also present, simply left the scene instead of ordering his men to help. MacMillan later justified his behavior by saying that he thought that things were under control. Levin doesn't venture a guess as to whether anyone had ordered the British troops not to interfere or they were simply driven to sit on their hands out of hatred for Jews. But Levin does challenge Arab propaganda, which later justified the slaughter of the doctors and nurses as revenge for Deir Yassin. The author contends that the Arabs had been planning to attack a Hadassah convoy weeks before the battle of Deir Yassin in which Jews too suffered casualties.

After the Arab forces succeeded in conquering East Jerusalem in 1948, thus depriving Hadassah of its Scopus building, the hospital continued to function in various buildings scattered around Jewish sections of Jerusalem. However, almost immediately after the loss of their hospital the Hadassah board decided that a new hospital would be built either in or near Jerusalem. When Ein Kerem was proposed as the site, there was another emotional debate both in and out of Hadassah circles, with many repeating the previous argument that it was too far away from the population the hospital was to serve. When David Ben-Gurion lent his support to the Ein Kerem site Hadassah made its final decision to build there.

Some of the projects initiated by Hadassah in pre-State times and later turned over to government authorities or Health Funds were the Tipat Halav clinics (which began as milk distribution centers for undernourished children and mothers), school lunch programs, children's playgrounds, and various clinics around the country. American Hadassah began other non-medical programs which it still continues to support, such as the vocational guidance

service and the College of Technology.

The project for which Hadassah and Henrietta Szold are best known outside of the hospital and medical schools is Youth Aliya, which eventually saved 12,000 Jewish children from the Nazis. The decision to take over Youth Aliya, which meant the need for additional fund-raising, created a great deal of acrimonious debate among various Jewish organizations that were part of the annual United Palestine Appeal and objected to Hadassah's intention to launch a separate campaign. Some objected to Hadassah's Zionist orientation in bringing all the refugee children to Palestine rather than to the United States. (The reader is here reminded of a similar debate that took place in the 1980s over the emigration of Soviet Jews.) And then there were some religious Jews in pre-war Germany who objected to the children being sent to non-religious kibbutzim.

A side benefit of Hadassah's adopting of Youth Aliya was that it drew attention to the threat of Nazism and also attracted many famous names such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Mayor LaGuardia and the comedian Eddie Cantor to Hadassah's campaign to save the children.

In the 1930s Hadassah broke away from the male dominated Zionist Organization in America and became an independent political entity within the World Zionist framework. At the 1937 Zionist Congress which debated the Peel Commission's offer of partition, Hadassah voted against accepting that plan. Five years later, in 1942, Hadassah voted in favor of the Biltmore Declaration sponsored by Ben-Gurion which stated that the aim of Zionism was the creation of a Jewish State after World War II. (Henrietta Szold herself favored a bi-national state solution to the Arab-Jewish conflict in Palestine.)

In 1946, Hadassah's Rose Halprin was elected to the governing body of the Jewish Agency, American Section, giving the organization greater political clout as well as the opportunity to expand its activities. Since then American Hadassah has established or helped support a Zionist youth organization, Zionist summer camps in the US, dozens of student study and leadership programs in Israel, a kibbutz in the

Negev and a moshav shifur (co-operative settlement) in the Judean Hills.

In recent years American Hadassah has adopted projects outside of the Jewish State, sending Hadassah doctors and nurses and other medical experts to various countries in Africa and Asia and to places of conflict such as Bosnia. In the 1980s American Hadassah began to open chapters in other countries with its Israel chapter being the first. (Levin discusses how this came about since until then Hadassah had an unwritten agreement with the Women's International Zionist Organization not to expand outside of the U.S.)

Hadassah is also known for its educational activities which aim at strengthening Jewish and Zionist knowledge. In recent years it has also become politically active on several fronts both Jewish and general such as ecology, the feminine agenda, and gun control. It also demonstrates and lobbies for Israel and for the cause of Jonathan Pollard and for US pressure on Syria for information about missing Israeli soldiers.

An outstanding feature of the American Hadassah organization is that its membership and leadership have always consisted of women from all streams of Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and secular, a point which should have been given more prominence in Levin's account since this ecumenical spirit is such a desideratum in Jewish life today.

Levin shares many interesting vignettes with the reader. In one of them he mentions the fact that Israel was granted the *jure* recognition by Ethiopia as a result of the following incident. On his return from South Africa, Dr. Moshe Rabinowitz, a Hadassah health specialist, had to make an unscheduled stop in Addis Ababa. Somehow the emperor found out about a Hadassah doctor being on the plane and asked an Israeli representative to bring him from the airport to treat his ill wife. Haile Selassie was so appreciative of what the doctor did to help his wife that he decided his country would grant full recognition to the Jewish State.

Levin's book ought to be translated into Hebrew for the Israeli public. The volume also contains several dozen pictures relating to the Hadassah story, a brief foreword by Elie Wiesel and a more generous afterword by Teddy Kollek.

THE JEWISH HOLIDAY BAKER by Joan Nathan, New York, Schocken Books, 211 pp. \$23.

By Jennie Tarabulus

As if four published cookbooks weren't enough, this prize-winning food writer dreamt up yet another kitchen come-on to lure gourmands. Her latest introduces secrets and stories of 13 Jewish bakers, pros and amateurs, whom she encountered during her travels around the globe. And they're not just bagel bubbas.

Ann Americk, for example, made desserts for Carter and Reagan as assistant pastry chef at the White House, the first Jewish cook on the staff. She laughingly recalls a topsy-turvy scramble to make the kitchen kosher for the late Menachem Begin's visit to the White House. She presents her Maryland Sudel based on a family recipe using sour cream dough filled like a fruit cake. Advice: After baking, cut while hot for it crumbles later. And it tastes better if left in the freezer or refrigerator a day or so.

Then there is a recipe for exotic Mexican banana cake discovered at a village pension whose Jewish proprietress followed instructions from a cookbook written in Spanish by her mother-in-law, a Yugoslavian Holocaust refugee who baked to support her family. Between 1939 and 1940, when escape was still possible, a noted Yugoslavian baker taught Jews the art of stretching dough, making intricate pastries, fine skills for earning a living as future refugees.

Breads, however, top the list of 50 original recipes. Nathan traces the connection from ancient biblical bread offerings in the Temple to the home-baked loaves which symbolize them. The ultimate loaf for her comes from a popular Jerusalem bakery in Mea She'arim. Its crusty, slightly sweet loaf might discourage baking at home. But she suggests that "kneading, rising, braiding, rolling and folding dough can be a rewarding, relaxing part of a busy life-style." Using yeast doesn't have to tie you down, for dough can be left overnight in the refrigerator to rise, then used when convenient.

For 4,000 years Jews have been making or buying some form of Shabbat loaf every week, the author comments, as she humorously unearths ads that appeared in 1910 for newly invented parve Crisco that claimed: "The Hebrew Race had been waiting 4000 years for it."

If you love pumpernickel rye bread, also called Jewish corn rye, be guided by the legendary Michael London, a former English professor who earns his living by training other pros to make old world breads and pastries.

Bagels may be an icon of American culture, but the author declares that Montreal produces the best ones, made by the son and daughter of the bakery founder who brought his recipe from Kiev in 1918. Like those in

Poland and Paris they include egg and are smaller and sweeter than the New York water bagels. Dieters may prefer crispy Sephardic *boyas* from Turkey using only flour and water and then baked.

Among the numerous holiday recipes there is a quickie Passover sponge cake from Spain and a recipe for matza created in the Italian underground during the Nazi occupation, made with spring water and matza meal kneaded for three minutes and rolled out to bake for six to seven minutes.

Other recipes feature lemon cheese cake with ground walnuts in the crust, Syrian *ka'ak* or sambusak turnovers made for generations by the Mansour family, Italian biscotti (mandelbrot), *Gesundheitskuchen* from Germany baked instantly for unexpected guests. But for sheer sensuality, the prize goes to Dobos Torte, a luscious seven layered cake from Hungary famous at Mrs. Herbert's bakery (1935-1986) in New York run by parents of contributor Ben



Joan Nathan

(Manny Bogrovitz)

Kamofsky. By chance I tasted this heavenly cake, renamed Dobogoe, in New Orleans, its Hungarian origins overlooked.

Skipping to Paris the author found classic baker Henri Finkelsztajn from Lodz on rue de Rosiers in the old Jewish Quarter abandoned during WWII then repopulated by Eastern Europeans. Here, in the trendy Marais district replete with cafes and boutiques, Henri bakes "pletzel," an updated version of the old Bialystok "isibele," round yeast bread sprinkled with onions. His recipe is easy to follow, as is that for his Polish cheesecake of white French cheese, and "fluden" made of figs spiced with Tunisian liqueur.

This lively cookbook lets traditional Jewish bakers speak for themselves, then adds the names and locations of those who own bakeries from Michigan to Paris, along with tested food shops selling good and unusual ingredients.

Highly readable, not only for gourmands but armchair cooks as well.

STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>Angela's Ashes</i> by Frank McCourt. Touchstone. | 6. <i>Visitors</i> by Anita Brookner. Penguin. |
| 2. <i>American Pastoral</i> by Philip Roth. Vintage. | 7. <i>Birds of Prey</i> by Wilber Smith. Pan. |
| 3. <i>God of Small Things</i> by Arundhati Roy. HarperCollins. | 8. <i>Gospel According to the Son</i> by Norman Mailer. Ballantine, Abacus. |
| 4. <i>Cold Mountain</i> by Charles Frazier. Scribner, Vintage. | 9. <i>Serpent's Tooth</i> by Faye Kellerman. Headline, Faye. |
| 5. <i>The Partner</i> by John Grisham. Dell, Corgi. | 10. <i>The Ranch</i> by Danielle Steel. Dell, Corgi. |

BOOK BYTES

Like clockwork Brian Moore comes out with a novel every two to three years. His latest, *The Magician's Wife* (reviewed in *The Post* on February 6), was inspired by Gustav Flaubert's notion of a magician in a letter, which the author chanced upon in the UCLA library. Though raised in a very religious family, "the Belfast-born Moore, 76, rejected Catholicism at the tender age of 10. After World War II, he landed in Canada, where he worked as a reporter on the *Montreal Gazette*. He enjoyed himself covering a Rotary Club luncheon on a cold winter day for the rest of his life. So he began writing novels. His initial attempts, pulp thrillers, were written under a pseudonym. His first real success was *Judith Hearne*, about a Belfast widow crippled by alcoholism and rejection. Never a bestseller, the book is, nevertheless, still in print after 40 years.

An offer to write a 1966 Hitchcock film script, *Tarn Cynhyd* — an episode he'd rather forget — led him to Malibu, California, where he has remained ever since. He taught his writing at UCLA for 15 years. His philosophy of story-telling follows Thomas Mann's edict: "Every story should tell itself," to which Moore adds, "I want the reader to get lost in the book, so he's not conscious of who wrote it and what great similes the author uses."

Despite his long sojourn in the New World, Moore has never "felt like an American." And though he's a citizen of Canada with a summer home there, neither does he consider himself Canadian.

It was while standing over the grave of an IRA patriot, that the realization hit him. "I'd like to be buried here. It was at that moment I knew I was totally, ineluctably Irish."

THE FIRST "pop-up" or three-dimensional books were published in the 1850s by Deane & Son in London, and mainly featured patriotic subjects. Today the genre is more popular than ever, and about 85 percent of all pop-up titles are produced in autumn to meet the Christmas trade. The production of pop-ups is a truly international effort. Britain has cornered the market on "paper engineering," that is, literally working out the nuts and bolts of each book. Interviewed Books of California coordinates the manufacture of about half the world's production. And most of the books are printed and hand-assembled in the developing countries of Latin America and the Far East where labor costs are low.

Though authors and illustrators receive top billings, it is the highly imaginative paper engineers who conceive the books and work out the intricate foldings. Their names are generally relegated to the small print on the back covers, or sometimes left out.

According to Ron van der Meer, one of Britain's top paper engineers, the market is moving away from strictly children's books to teenage and even adult titles. Most pop-ups in these sectors combine educational and entertainment value. At last year's Frankfurt Book Fair, van der Meer's firm sold 2.5 million pop-up books to distributors.

ON OPENING my February issue of *Writers News*, the Scottish-based magazine for aspiring and professional writers, I was pleased to see a picture of WN publisher David S. John Thomas with former *Jerusalem Post* columnist, Hadassah Bat Haim. According to the caption, the magazine's isolated Highland situation at Naim near Inverness made Bat Haim particularly welcome.

David Brauner

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. *The Street Lawyer* by John Grisham. (Doubleday \$27.95.) A young lawyer comes to terms with himself after discovering his prestigious firm's dirty secret.
2. *Paradise by Torti Morrison*. (Knopf \$25.) A small Black utopia in rural Oklahoma experiences tragedy and regeneration when it encounters the real world.
3. *Pandora* by Anne Rice. (Knopf \$19.95.) A 2000-year-old vampire recounts her experiences, from imperial Rome to 20th-century Paris and New Orleans.
4. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. (Atlantic Monthly \$24.) A Confederate soldier journeys home to meet an old love.
5. *Blood Work* by Michael Connelly. (Little Brown \$23.95.) A retired FBI agent undertakes to solve the murder of an alluring woman's sister.
6. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden. (Knopf \$25.) The life of a young woman in prewar Kyoto.
7. *Black and Blue* by Anna Quindlen. (Random House \$23.) After her husband turns violent, a woman flees to Florida with her young son.
8. *Thrill* by Jackie Collins. (Simon & Schuster \$25.) Passion and ambition at work and play among the film folk of New York and L.A.
9. *Miracle Curse* by Michael Palmer. (Bantam \$23.95.) A cardiologist, seeking to find the facts about a miracle drug, uncovers a huge, deadly conspiracy.
10. *Guilty Pleasures* by Lawrence Sanders. (Putnam \$24.95.) The Foley family's publishing empire is threatened by deadly secrets.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. *Talking to Heaven* by James Van Praagh. (Dutton \$22.) A "world-famous medium" discusses communication with the other side.
2. *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday \$19.95.) A sportswriter tells of his weekly visits to his old college mentor.
3. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
4. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt. (Random House \$23.) Mysterious death in Savannah, Ga.
5. *Spin Cycle* by Howard Kurtz. (Free Press \$25.) A journalist reports on how "the Clinton propaganda machine" deals with scandals and the press.
6. *The Long Hard Road out of Hell* by Marilyn Manson with Neil Strauss. (PaganBooks/HarperCollins \$24.) The memoirs of the nefarious rock star.
7. *The Man Who Listens to Horses* by Monty Roberts. (Random House \$23.) The memoirs of a professional horse trainer.
8. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95.) An account of the ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
9. *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Longstreet \$22.) Wealthy Americans have seven characteristics in common.
10. *Titanic Legacy* of the World's Greatest Ocean Liner by Susan Wells. (Time Life \$34.95.) An illustrated account of the disaster.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. *The Partner* by John Grisham. (Island/Dell \$7.95.) The pursuit of \$50 million stolen by a Mississippi lawyer.
2. *Here on Earth* by Alice Hoffman. (Bantam \$13.) Returning to her Massachusetts hometown after 19 years, a woman encounters her old love.
3. *Public Secrets* by Nora Roberts. (Bantam \$5.50.) The troubled yet romantic life of the legitimate daughter of a rock idol.
4. *The Ranch* by Danielle Steel. (Dell \$7.50.) Three women who were college roommates come to terms with themselves at a Wyoming resort.
5. *The Maze* by Catherine Coulter. (Jove \$7.50.) A woman, determined to locate her sister's killer, finds herself to be his new target.
6. *Small Town Girl* by LaVigne Spencer. (Jove \$7.50.) A country music star, returning to her hometown, finds a new life.
7. *The Genesis Code* by John Case. (Ballantine \$5.95.) A detective's sister and nephew are two of the victims in a series of mysterious deaths.
8. *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner Vision \$5.95.) A World War II veteran meets an old flame.
9. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* by Rebecca Wells. (Harper Perennial \$13.50.) Three generations of Southern women.
10. *Evening Class* by Maeve Binchy. (Dell \$7.50.) Secrets, aspirations, and passions surface during a course in Italian at a Dublin school.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. *James Cameron's Titanic* by Ed W. Marsh. Photographs by Douglas Kirkland. (Harper Perennial \$20.) A lavishly illustrated account of the making of the film.
2. *A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord. (Bantam \$5.95.) A historian's account of the Titanic disaster.
3. *Leonardo DiCaprio: Modern-Day Romeo* by Grace Catalano. (Laurel-Leaf/Dell \$4.99.) The life of the film actor.
4. *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13.) A celebration of the Italian countryside by a poet.
5. *The Night Lives On* by Walter Lord. (Avon \$5.95.) A historian looks at the Titanic disaster.
6. *The Color of Water* by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A Black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother.
7. *Titanic: An Illustrated History* by Don Lynch. Photographs by Ken Marschall. (Medford Press/Hyperion \$29.95.) The construction, launching, sinking, and rediscovery of the liner.
8. *The Leonardo DiCaprio Album* by Brian J. Robb. (Plexus/Publishers Group West \$15.95.) An illustrated biography.
9. *A Child Called "It"* by Dave Pelzer. (Health Communications \$9.95.) The autobiography of a man who survived his mother's abuse.
10. *Leonardo DiCaprio: A Biography* by Nancy Knoff. (Archway/Pocket \$4.50.) The life of the actor \$15.95.) An illustrated biography.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. *The Beanie Baby Handbook* 1998 by Les Fox and Sue Fox. (West Highland \$8.95.) A new edition and a guide for collectors of the toys.
3. *Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
4. *Leonardo by Grace Catalano*. (Dell \$7.95.) A scrapbook of photographs and text about film actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.
2. *Don't Worry, Make Money* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$15.95.) Ways to achieve a more enjoyable and profitable life.
3. *Men Are From Mars, Women From Venus* by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$25.) Improving communication and relationships.
4. *Eat Right 4 Your Type* by Peter J. D'Adamo with Catherine Whitney. (Putnam \$22.95.) Diets to suit each of the four blood types.

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Putting the customer first

For a consumer, there is not much that is more fundamental than the price. Yesterday, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky won his long campaign to amend the price labeling regulations, when the Knesset Economics Committee overwhelmingly passed his proposals. Now comes the consumers' turn to help make sure the new regulations are implemented better than existing ones.

One might think that a regulation that requires the price of all packaged products (except bags of milk) be individually marked would not be controversial. In this day and age, no one would think of putting products on the shelf without disclosing quantities, weights, and ingredients. Yet the large supermarket chains lobbied hard, if unsuccessfully, to convince the Knesset that the consumer need not have prices marked clearly on every product.

In the early 1990s, these same economic interests lobbied hard against comprehensive price-labeling regulations, and succeeded in convincing the Knesset to approve 14 exemptions to the requirement to label prices. These exemptions — for products in bins, milk products, frozen products, etc. — rendered the regulations almost impossible to understand and to enforce.

Since there were so many exceptions to the price labeling requirements, most consumers were unaware that a general requirement even existed. With the consumers neutralized, enforcement fell to the handful of government inspectors, who also had trouble preventing the retailers from wiggling through this or that loophole.

The just-approved regulations will eliminate most of these loopholes. According to the Israel Consumer Council, even the publicity from the debate over the regulations has led stores to label prices on more of their products. Once the public knows that every product must be labeled, complaints from the public should add greatly to regular enforcement efforts.

In addition to fulfilling the consumer's basic right to know, price labeling will help shoppers compare prices, which will increase competition and bring prices down. Despite the cost argument used by retailers, studies both here and abroad show that products without price labels creep up in price, while increased competition brings prices down, despite the cost of labeling.

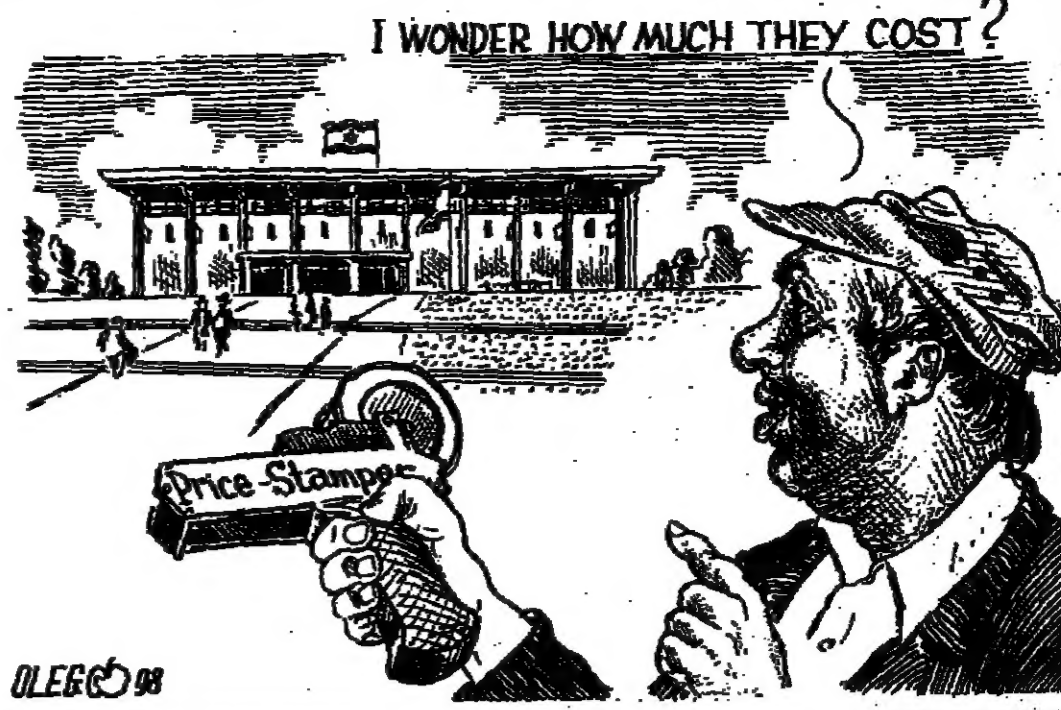
In general, the public has been treated to some shining examples of how deregulation and price competition reduce prices. When the monopolies that dominated international and cellular telephone calls were broken up, prices plummeted. If the government wins its fight to introduce competition on some Egged bus lines, prices in that sector will no doubt drop, too.

Nor is breaking up the most obvious monopolies the only way to increase competition — Sharansky has other worthy ideas up his sleeve. This year's budget law gave him the authority to eliminate some 160 "standards" that keep foreign products out, ostensibly to protect the public. Known as "non-tariff trade barriers" in trade lingo, these rules are pure protectionism masquerading as health and safety measures. For years, for example, the major tea manufacturer managed to keep out foreign teas by claiming the staple in foreign tea bags endangered the Israeli consumer.

Such bogus regulations represent a clear conflict between narrow commercial interests and that of the consumer. Sharansky, more than perhaps any minister before him, is doggedly pro-consumer, and has ordered that all of the regulations that do not have a real health or safety rationale — meaning practically all of them — be eliminated.

In his sometimes lonely fight for the new regulations, Sharansky was accused of being a "populist" by the major supermarket chains. In fact, polls show that 84 percent of Israelis prefer prices to be marked on products, and 93 percent believe that the issue is of great importance.

If increasing competition is "populist," then it is the sort of populism which the economy could use much more of. The chairman of the Knesset subcommittee called the passage of Sharansky's price-labeling regulation, "a Pessah gift to the people of Israel." The difficulty of accomplishing this seemingly obvious step, despite overwhelming public support and the narrowness of the opposition, shows how daunting it will be to make more sweeping reforms, when they are opposed by even bigger interests. Sharansky, however, has set an example of how entrenched interests can be resisted to further the public good, an example which will have to be followed many times over before consumers really feel their interests are paramount.



Breakthrough or stagnation

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's visit to Israel and our neighbors sheds a new light on the opportunity that opened up for Israel internationally in the years 1992-1996 — in particular in the framework of the United Nations. At the same time, his visit also serves to focus the vision for the future.

From 1992-1996, Annan was UN assistant secretary-general in charge of the peacekeeping forces and I maintained with him, in my capacity as Israel's ambassador to the UN, regular working relations that developed into a close friendship.

Israel underwent a change during that time — from being an object to being a player, from a routine punching bag to an accepted and serious participant in the international arena.

This was especially so from the time the Declaration of Principles was signed between Israel and the Palestinians. A substantial turnaround in the relations between Israel and the international community occurred, as represented in the UN.

One of the direct expressions of this new openness was in the relations between ourselves and other countries. A natural place for this was the United Nations — in one square kilometer one can meet senior representatives of every country in the world. And in fact, during the course of those years, diplomatic relations were established with 31 countries. In the two years following the September 1993 signing of the Declaration of Principles, diplomatic relations were renewed or established with 27 countries.

In total, Israel has diplomatic relations at present with 151 out of 185 of the UN's member nations. Regular working relationships were maintained with approximately half

GAD YAKOBI

of the countries with whom we do not have official diplomatic relations or where relations with them are still under wraps (such as Morocco, Tunisia, Djibouti, Mauritania, Bosnia, Croatia, Qatar, Oman, Mali and others.)

At the same time, the majority of hostile decisions against Israel were either repealed or dismissed and a positive decision was accepted, supporting the peace process and its agreements, as well as a decision calling for international cooperation in the fight against terror. For the first time since our membership in the UN, four Israelis were chosen by secret ballot in the General Assembly to hold key positions.

Israel was not condemned by the Security Council even after discussions of problematic issues such as the deportees, the settlements, land appropriations, the Goldstein massacre and so on. Furthermore, the Security Council, on a few occasions, condemned acts of terror against Israelis and the killing of Israelis.

We also increased our participation in the general activities of the United Nations, including international forums on environmental protection (in Rio), population (in Cairo), social policy (in Copenhagen) and women (in Beijing).

During those same years a change in the formal position of the UN occurred: Among 29 negative decisions that were directed against Israel in 1992, seven were repealed or joined together. In four additional decisions, substantial changes in the wording were made that enabled us to support them. Of the 15 remaining decisions, the contents were improved and almost all of the condemnations were

removed. Only three decisions were left in such a way that we had to vote against them, compared to 29 decisions at the beginning of the period. These decisions deal with permanent arrangements that will be determined in future negotiations and that deal with Jerusalem, the settlements, and the Golan Heights.

One of the best examples of our new position in the UN during that time was the visit of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin to the UN's General Assembly for its 50th anniversary. He met with approximately 40 presidents and premiers and could have met with many more, if he would have had more time. His speech before the assembly continues to resound in the ears of many.

To our sorrow, two weeks later he was killed for his pursuit of peace and to security.

The future lies in our hands, as the recent past has proved. If we want to change from being a client to being a participant, from an object to an active player, we must continue our policy of openness and peace.

Progress in the peace process and the change in our position in the international community are intertwined and one supports the other. The relationships that are formed here give birth to mutual relations, including diplomatic and economic, and aid the progress towards peace in the multi-faceted international forum.

Annan's visit to Israel and the region is an opportunity to focus anew on the relationship of our political, national and economic strengths and our international position.

The writer is a former ambassador to the UN.

Clinton's Three Stooges

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Kenneth Starr's ongoing grand jury investigation is probably the most important criminal case in recent American history. Yet the three most visible lawyers in the case have little actual courtroom experience in the trial of criminal cases. And their collective inexperience is showing.

Nearly every experienced criminal attorney with whom I have spoken — and they include prosecutors, defense attorneys, Democrats and Republicans — agrees that these three lawyers have handled this important case in a manner bordering on incompetence.

The problems begin with Kenneth Starr, who was appointed independent counsel despite the fact that he has never tried a criminal case. He was appointed not because of his credentials as a criminal lawyer — he has none — but rather because of his political credentials as a right-wing ideologue who could be trusted by the likes of Sen. Jesse Helms and Lauch Faircloth to do their partisan bidding.

The circumstances of his appointment are highly suspect: the removal of a truly independent lawyer following a lunch meeting between the two right-wing senators and the right-wing judge, a political protégé of the senators, who is in charge of the panel that selects independent counsel. Starr had consulted with Paula Jones' lawyers before being offered the job as independent counsel and should have declined the appointment on conflict-of-interest grounds. But he accepted, and his overzealous actions have destroyed the credibility of his investigation.

Next, there is the president's lawyer in the Paula Jones case, Robert Bennett. He is a major cause of the president's problems.

It is distressing that the most important criminal case in memory should have so many bunglers involved.

Any experienced criminal lawyer would have settled or defaulted the Paula Jones case rather than allow his client to be, deposed under oath about his sex life.

Instead, he foolishly led the president into a perjury trap, set by Jones' lawyers and Starr. Jones' lawyers knew that Monica Lewinsky had said on tape that she had a sexual relationship with the president, but Bennett was not aware of that evidence. He did, of course, know that there were allegations of a sexual relationship between the president and Lewinsky, because she had been subpoenaed.

Bennett could not possibly have known whether these allegations were true or false in whole or in part, or whether there existed corroborating evidence. Yet, like a rank amateur, he allowed his client to fall right into the trap.

Most recently, Bennett provoked the Jones lawyers into filing hundreds of pages of documents containing additional allegations of sexual misconduct. Bennett says he expects to "win" the Jones case, not realizing that whatever its final outcome, he has already lost it for his client.

Finally, there is Mr. Amateur Hour himself, William Ginsburg. An old friend of the Lewinsky family, Ginsburg had no experience as a criminal lawyer and did not understand the complexities of immunity, plea bargaining and other esoteric aspects of negotiating a deal with a federal prosecutor.

But instead of simply helping his friends find an experienced Washington lawyer and then going home, Ginsburg decided to parlay his friendship with the Lewinskys into his own 15 minutes of fame. Taking to the airwaves, he destroyed his client's credibility and bargaining powers. He made inconsistent statements on her behalf, disclosed privileged communications and shocked experienced criminal lawyers by his public ineptitude.

It is distressing that the most important criminal case in memory should have so many bunglers involved. There are, of course, some experienced criminal lawyers behind the scenes. Starr has some excellent prosecutors on his staff. Ginsburg has retained an able local criminal lawyer. And President Clinton's other personal attorney, David Kendall, is a superb and highly experienced criminal lawyer. But it is the visible lawyers who are speaking to the public, and they look and sound like the Three Stooges as they make mistakes after mistake.

United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AMBASSADOR'S LETTER

Sir, — I would like to make two points in connection with the British ambassador's letter "Cook: A good friend of Israel," (March 24).

The courteous reception given to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in London was to be expected, in view of the fact that he behaved with courtesy and respect towards his hosts. I won-

der how politely he would have been received had he first visited Belfast in the company of Gerry Adams and called for the British government to give up part of Ulster to Eire.

The \$2 billion contributed by the EU to the Palestinians might have also contributed to the security of Israel as he claims, had the EU been able or willing to see that

two-thirds of it were not used corruptly; partly to buy weapons prohibited by Oslo to arm a "police" force more than double the size allowed by Oslo, and partly to build villas with helicopter pads and swimming pools for Arafat and his cronies.

DR. JUDITH WYNICK
Rehovot.

DISMAY AND DISGUST

Sir, — It was with dismay and disgust that I looked at the picture of the little Beduin girl standing before a tent on the place where formerly her house had stood. (March 1).

Dismay because I came from South Africa, where such scenes were commonplace and I thought that never again would I be witness to the distressing spectacle.

Disgust because I saw the inhumanity and total indifference of the authorities towards this incident. Not only did they demolish the home of the Beduin but they also trashed the family's

furniture and then discarded their possessions in a garbage dump, according to the report.

The mayor's explanation was that the area was required for expansion of the Jewish settlement nearby.

Why did they authorities not provide alternative accommodation? Why didn't they make arrangements to store the family's possessions in another secure place for safekeeping? Why wasn't adequate warning given so that the Beduin themselves could have tried to find another suitable place where they could live? Why couldn't

the move have been postponed for a few weeks so that the unfortunate would not be exposed to the unpleasant weather that prevails at this season?

I cannot believe that Israeli Jews would so readily lose their principles, inculcated by our Bible, and show so little sympathy and understanding of the plight of these unfortunate people.

S. SINOFF
Haifa.

A BI-NATIONAL STATE

Sir, — I read Larry Derfner's article "A million Israelis won't be celebrating" (March 20) with great interest. This article strengthens my belief that Israel been established as a bi-national state, as Martin Buber and his colleagues in "Brit Shalom" had suggested, both Jews and Arabs would have had equal cause for celebration.

RAZ JOSEPH
Beersheba.

CUNNING SATIRE

Sir, — Having grown up learning to look forward to the weekend "funnies" in American newspapers, I have always regretted the lack of a comics section in Friday's edition of The Jerusalem Post.

At last, I can look forward to those delicious Friday pieces served up by Jonathan Rosenblum. They are hysterical-

ly funny! Lest, God forbid, some reader take his cunning satire seriously, may I suggest that his column be labeled "Humor" as you sometimes do when you bill as "advertisement" certain paid for presentations that may appear to be news or opinion articles.

B. EDELSTEIN
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 26, 1933, The Palestine Post reported that a campaign to boycott German goods was afoot in several countries, notably America, to protest against the ill treatment of Jews in Germany, where antisemitic terrorism had reached tremendous proportions.

50 years ago: On March 26, 1948, The Palestine Post reported that in his eagerly awaited statement to the press on Palestine, President Truman called for a truce between Jews and Arabs and said that while he still favored partition, he wanted a UN trusteeship as a temporary means to govern the country.

25 years ago: On March 26, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported that the District Court in Haifa found five of the six main defendants in the Arab-Syrian-Jewish spy trial guilty on all counts of organizing a Syrian-sponsored espionage and a sabotage ring aimed at overthrowing the government. Alexander Zvielli

Hot tip

By DAHLIA SCHENBERG

Weekender

Vive le cinema!

The French Film Festival at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque presents movies by leading directors Truffaut, Resnais and Malle

By SHAI TSUR

As the medium of film enters its second century, it seems as though Hollywood has become supreme as never before. While a major spectacle such as *Titanic* breaks box-office records around the world, smaller, non-English-language films find themselves increasingly marginalized in the realm of cinephiles.

runaway success of Hollywood has not gone unchallenged, certainly not in France, a country noted for taking its film culture extremely seriously. Over the years, the French have taken a stand against what they see as American cultural hegemony, and new outlets to familiarize international audiences with the fruits of the French film industry.

One of these is the seventh annual French Film Festival, which opens at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque tonight and runs through April 7.

The festival, a collaboration between the Cinematheque and the Institut Francais, presents a wide range of recent French movies. The festival's program features work by the country's best-known directors as well as that of younger, cutting-edge artists.

The festival originally started as an attempt to revive the flagging box-office performance of French movies worldwide. "The problem was that European cinema was not being shown in Israel and around the world like it was 20 or 30 years ago," explains Alexandre Arcady, director of the Institut Francais and the festival's primary organizer.

In the past, not just French cinema but also Italian and English movies were very successful in Israel. We decided to set up something to show that there are more movies available than just those from Hollywood.

This year's festival presents 49 features, documentaries, and short films. The program, prepared by Arcady and his team with help from film experts and critics in France, offers an overview of contemporary French cinema, mainly films released in the past two years.

Director Alain Resnais' *On connaît la chanson* ("Same Old Song") kicks off the festivities. Resnais has often dealt thematically with the conflict between the internal world of the psyche and the external world of reality. In films such as *Hiroshima mon amour*, Resnais examines the way in which the past affects the present.

On connaît la chanson deals with the dissonance between real relationships and the fictional world celebrated in the French chanson tradition. His characters, who are involved in complex relationships of love and betrayal, frequently stop and start singing in mid-sentence to songs of Charles Aznavour, Jacques Gall, and Josephine Baker. This technique, which emphasizes the basic falseness of songs, has been used before, notably in the work of the late Dennis Potter and less notably in Woody Allen's *Love and Death*.

Although the movies at the festival deal with a wide range of subjects in a wide range of styles, several ideas seem to recur. The past, for instance, appears as a factor in many of the festival's entries, both as setting and as theme.

Director Vera Belmont presents *Marquise*, a lavish costume drama set in the 17th century. The radiant Sophie Marceau stars as the eponymous heroine of 'Marquise,' which mixes fictional characters with historical figures.



The radiant Sophie Marceau stars as the eponymous heroine of 'Marquise,' which mixes fictional characters with historical figures.

set in the 17th century. The radiant Sophie Marceau stars as the eponymous heroine, a dancer and actress discovered by Moliere and brought into his theater troupe. The film intersperses its fictional characters with historical figures, such as Moliere and Racine, presenting a picture of the artistic life during the reign of Louis XIV.

Alexandre Arcady's *K* deals with the past in a different manner. K tells the tale of Sam, a police detective, and his longtime friendship with Katz, a concentration-camp survivor. When Katz guns down a German tourist - a man whom he believes was a former SS officer - Sam cannot bring himself to arrest his friend and faces the consequences. Arcady not only examines how the Holocaust still affects its survivors but also raises questions about the true meaning of justice.

Defay says that most of these recent films will be screened in Israel for the first time at the festival. The sole exception comes with director Robert Guédiguain's 1996 feature *Marius et Jeannette*. The film, a love story between a security guard and a single mother, proved a success at last year's Haifa Film Festival.

Tel Aviv's French Film Festival program includes appearances by several guests of honor, among them actor Roger Hanin, who will present his recent directing effort *Soleil*. The movie deals with a heart attack at his daughter's wedding and relives his life in clear flashback, including his relationship with his mother, played by Sophie Loren.

Lambert Wilson, another festival guest, appears in several of the films to be screened, including *Marquise* and *On connaît la chanson*. According to Defay, Wilson accommodated a busy schedule performing on the Paris stage in order to be a part of the festival.

"He said he was delighted to come," Defay says. "So he will get on the plane a half hour after he finishes on the stage and come here for the two days."

The theme of the past in French cinema often merges with an ambivalence about France's role during the Second World War. As

at the ZOA House, at 9. Located at 1 Daniel Frish, (03) 695-9341, off Ibn Gvirol.

Literary stimulation is to be found tonight at the Writer's House in Tel Aviv, with an evening of meetings with new writers, sponsored by the Tel Aviv-Jaffa municipality. Participants include Shmuel Benor and Dr. Hana Herzog, 8:30 p.m. 6 Kaplan, (03) 695-3256

cast on the Voice of Music starting at 9:05 p.m. Call (02) 623-4347, or fax: (02) 625-9252.

Once the religious urge has passed, partying types can stop by the Pargod Theater for a night entitled *Shalva and Reuma Bark on Red*.

The esoteric title refers to a drag show that features both original music and cover versions of old favorites. Be all dressed and ready to go at 9 p.m. 94 Bezalet, (02) 623-8819.

The Ethnic Music Week at the Mishkenot Sha'ananim Jerusalem Music Center offers daily lectures, master classes and concerts on the theme of religious and church music.

Today the focus is on the music of the Eastern Churches of Jerusalem, and includes renowned Armenian music expert Father Goossan, along with performances of Armenian, Greek, Syrian, and Ethiopian church music.

The presentations will be broad-

cast on the Voice of Music starting at 9:05 p.m. Call (02) 623-4347, or fax: (02) 625-9252.

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The event takes place at Beit Zvi at 8:30 p.m. 2 Rehov Shualet Shimshon, (03) 579-6739.

Ramat Gan doesn't ignore its musical audience. The Library

Claude Berri's bittersweet 1966 comedy *Le vieil homme et l'enfant* (*The Two of Us*), Joseph Losey's *Monsieur Klein* and Francois Truffaut's *The Last Metro*. Although the French Film Festival began as a response to the decline of French cinema worldwide, Defay admits that the situation has not improved much in the course of the decade.

As a result of what they see as American cultural imperialism, the French government over the year has introduced a large number of measures - from increased funding for French movies to quotas on the movies allowed to be screened - designed to protect their local industry.

Defay feels that frameworks such as the festival serve a broader purpose than protecting the French movie industry. "We want to try to maintain a diversity of cinema," he says. "The competition is not just between us and Hollywood. We see a lot of films now by independent filmmakers, and these are very similar to us. We want to avoid only one kind of film being shown."

Other films in this series include

Theater hosts an evening of the songs of Jacques Brel, produced by Beit Zvi. 16 Hibat Zion St. (03) 616-1122.

Practice for Independence Day and dance like a maniac! The Hebrew University Faculty of Agriculture, located in Rehovot, is holding an evening of Classic Israeli Folk Dancing with Eddy Sasson and guest teachers. (02) 533-2120.

Television

The 1980s may have been a bit of a dry spell for classic under-villains, but New York managed to produce some.

John Gotti was one, and the film about him, *Gotti*, that shows tonight on the Movie Channel at 10 is far from a *Godfather*. Rather, it is a biography that follows his trial.

Nostalgics will prefer *Carefree*, on Second Showing at 10:15, with three favorites: Ginger Rogers, Fred Astaire and the music of Irving Berlin.

Night moves

By AMY KLEIN

Your partner pulls you close, his knee between your legs. One arm presses tautly against yours, and the other holds the small of your back. He looks deeply into your eyes. Then he turns you away - out onto the dance floor.

There is nothing sexier than the sultry, frenetic pulsation of salsa dancing. It's all in the right dip of hip, twist of toe, and speed of spin. And you can learn all these things from a real professional at Glasnost bar/café in Jerusalem's Russian Compound.

Every Monday night at 8:30, Glasnost hosts Joseph Conde, a new immigrant originally from El Salvador, who grew up and studied dance in Los Angeles and most recently came from Spain, where he taught dance. Conde teaches a mix of Latin dances such as merengue, the newly trendy conga line-dance, and salsa.

Glasnost, established nine years ago, was named after the policy of openness in the Soviet Union. Recently coming under new ownership the place was renovated this winter, and the new stage and dance floor make it great for entertainment throughout the week. On Tuesday there's a live reggae band, and on Friday evening there's salsa dancing starting at 6. Entrance to both is NIS 25. Wednesday is student night, and every other Sunday there's a live jazz band with no cover charge.

Different countries have different styles of salsa, Conde says; he teaches a mix of all of them. Cuban salsa has lots of rhythm, and the girl can fancy-dance on her own while her partner stays in one place doing the basic step.

It's all in the attitude, Conde teaches. The girl is flirty and seductive, demure and sensual. Whereas in Cuban salsa, her guy may be looking away, even ignoring her; in Puerto Rican salsa he is oozing attention on her as they dance a lovers' story.

Columbian salsa, on the other hand, is much simpler, with both partners dancing the same basic three-step. You can tell usually spot South Americans because instead of the pause after the three-step (quick-quick-slow), they add a little kick.

Salsa dancing is actually very much in the guy's hands - literally. His hands communicate the direction, the pace and the moves of the dance. Give a kick, take a dip, shimmy to the ground, double spin - and you are set to salsa anywhere.

After the lesson at Glasnost, the lights go dim and a band comes in (sometimes there's a DJ); they play till the morning hours. Entrance to salsa night is NIS 25 or NIS 10 for the lesson only.

Conde also offers private lessons.

Beginning next Saturday, Glasnost will also host an outdoor market called "GlasnostShuk," starting at 10 a.m., offering jewelry, crafts and the like.

In addition to the regular fare of food such as salads and sandwiches, Glasnost also has an Oriental cook who prepares Chinese food that hits the spot after a night of dancing. You can come with a partner to ensure that you have one, or you can go alone - it's a great way to meet a new set of dance friends.

The club has a large dance floor, good acoustics, and is relatively smoke-free: everyone is too busy dancing.

Glasnost Bar/Café

15 Heli Hamalka Street, Russian Compound, Jerusalem

Tel: (02) 625-6954

AFTER HOURS

Opera on my mind

Soprano Marina Levitt talks about her favorite roles



is glorious and this is one of his best operas."

2. Mazenka in 'The Bartered Bride' by Smetana.

"The music is lyrical, the Czech Slavic melodies are very close to my heart and the orchestration is excellent. The ending, for a change, is a good and happy one. Mazenka might not be that intelligent, but she has some spunk and smartness in her, together with her simplicity and naivete. And it is good for a change not to be a countess or a queen, but actually just to be me."

3. Gilda in 'Rigoletto' by Verdi.

"There is no more beautiful soprano entrance in the repertoire than in this opera. The music is great. Yet I cannot really relate to the story. I would never kill myself for any man, even if I love him dearly. And although I do not believe that it takes so long to die, singing the gorgeous music of the death scene at the end is wonderful."

4. Marguerite in 'Faust' by Gounod.

"I really love this role. I have portrayed it in various productions from the very conventional to the very modern. I especially love her scene in church, which unfortunately is usually cut. She is a naive girl, who eventually finds herself in jail and in a madhouse. The trio at the end of the opera is amazing."

5. Pamina in 'Die Zauberflöte' ('The Magic Flute') by Mozart.

"I like that that good triumphs over evil in this opera, and when it comes with Mozart's music, who could ask for anything more? There is a simplicity and naivete to Pamina. And although she does change at a certain point and you sense the woman in her, she is basically just a girl. Again, I would never kill myself because of desperate love, but the music is really gorgeous. I have sung it in the original German, which is the easiest; in English, which I got used to; and next season I will perform the role in Hebrew, which will be very difficult - at least to begin with."

-Michael Aizenstadt

Hot tip

By DAHLIA SCHEINDLIN

Tel Aviv

Blues, rock and roll and a little early music, are the pickings of tonight's musical scene. The Enav Cultural Center grooves down with international blues figure L.A. Jones and his band The Blues Messengers at 9:30 p.m., together with the local group Sanhedrin.

Located at the Tel Aviv Municipality (Gan Ha'ir), call (03) 528-5222.

Tzavta is hosting an evening of various bands tonight, in a show entitled *Noise*. 30 Ibn Gvirol, (03) 695-0156/7.

Multi-band performances seem to be a trend, as Beit Lessin offers a similar event designed to display new rock bands. Starting at 10:30 p.m. Off Kikar Hamedina. Call (03) 694-1111.

Leaving behind the grind of the inner city, gentler listeners can escape to Old Jaffa's Noga Theater for a performance by the British group Henry's Eight, featuring eight male singers, as part of the Authentica Concert Series.

The group was "formed out of a common desire to highlight the neglected wealth of 16th- and 17th-century men's vocal music," so they ought not to be neglected here. Call (03) 681-3131.

Theater-goers will be interested in the Fringe show called *Where's Ruf?*, performed by Tahal Ran. Even before *Anna Weiss*, this one-woman play dealt with the issues surrounding sexual abuse. Tonight

Weekender Food & Drink



Say ahhh...

Got the flu, a cold, or just the blues? Try these soothing recipes that will help you feel in the pink again.

This is our get-well card to you. You've got that cold that has been going around the office all winter and still hasn't died? Or a touch of the flu? You're feeling achy, congested and a bit out of sorts.

Here's our remedy: Recipes that can make you feel better. It's no longer just an old wives' tale that a bowl of chicken soup has medicinal value or that chocolate can lift your spirits. More and more scientific studies have shown just how healing and healthful everyday foods can be.

The following recipes are in no way miracle cures. They may not have you back in your aerobics class tomorrow or running a 10K this weekend, but they will give you nourishment and plenty of pleasure. Hey, even if you took that flu shot and are feeling on top of the world, these recipes aren't to be missed.

CHICKEN SOUP WITH ORZO

Researchers speculate that it's more than the hot, steamy nature of chicken soup that helps relieve congestion. Chances are there is an aromatic or flavoring compound in chicken soup that offers an extra measure of cold relief.

- 1 1/2 kg. chicken pieces
- 3 liters water
- 1 medium-sized onion, cut into 8 wedges
- 1 cup chopped carrot
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 Tbsp. black peppercorns
- 1 1/2 cups sliced carrot
- 1 cup diced celery
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh or 2 tsp. dried basil
- 1 tsp. chopped fresh or 1/4 tsp. dried oregano
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 cup uncooked orzo (rice-shaped pasta)

Remove and discard giblets and neck from chicken. Rinse chicken under cold water and pat dry. Trim excess fat. Combine chicken and 3 liters water in a stockpot; bring to a boil. Add the onion, chopped carrot, chopped celery and peppercorns and bring to a boil. Partially cover, reduce heat and simmer 1 hour.

Remove the chicken from broth, reserving broth; cool. Remove chicken from bones; cut meat into bite-size pieces. Strain chicken broth through a sieve over a bowl; discard solids. Add enough water to broth to measure 10 cups; pour broth mixture into stockpot. Add sliced carrot, diced celery, basil, oregano, salt and bay leaf; bring to a boil.

Cover, reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes. Add chicken and orzo; cook 8 minutes or until pasta is done. (Serves 8.)

SPICY SAUSAGE CHILI

Have a stuffy nose? It's becoming more common for physicians to prescribe spicy foods as a remedy. Fiery foods can trigger a

release of fluids that can help open nasal passages.

- 2 cups diced onion
- 340 gr. hot turkey Italian sausage, crumbled
- 2 cups water
- 1 1/2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 1/2 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper
- 870 gr. canned stewed tomatoes, undrained
- 450 gr. can cannellini beans or other white beans, drained
- 135 gr. can chopped green chilis, undrained
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced

Combine diced onion and turkey sausage in a Dutch oven and cook over medium-high heat until browned, stirring constantly. Stir in the water and remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. (Serves 7.)

MILK-CHOCOLATE PUDDING

Many feel that chocolate is the ultimate feel-good food when you're down. Speculation is that it either contains mood-elevating substances or that it stimulates their production.

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 2 cups low-fat milk
- 45 gr. semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Combine the sugar and cornstarch in a saucepan; gradually add milk, stirring with a whisk until well-blended. Stir in chocolate. Bring to a boil over medium heat; cook 7 minutes, stirring constantly. Gradually add hot milk mixture to egg, stirring constantly with a whisk.

Return the milk mixture to the pan and cook until thick and bubbly (about 30 seconds), stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla. Spoon the mixture into a bowl; place plastic wrap over the surface and cool to room temperature. (Serves 4.)

HOME-STYLE MEAT LOAF

An iron-rich food like meat loaf can help keep you warm on cold nights. When researchers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture deprived a group of women of iron, they became chilled more quickly when exposed to lower temperatures.

- 3/4 cup ketchup, divided
- 1/2 cup quick-cooking oats
- 1/4 cup minced fresh onion
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
- 1 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 2 large egg whites, lightly beaten
- 700 gr. ground meat
- cooking spray

Preheat oven to 175°.

Combine 1/2 cup ketchup, oats, and next 6 ingredients (oats through egg whites) in a large bowl. Add meat and stir just until blended. Shape meat mixture into a 20 x 10 cm. loaf on a broiler pan coated with cooking spray. Brush 1/4 cup ketchup over meat loaf. Bake at 175° for 1 hour and 10 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before slicing. (Serves 6.)

MASHED POTATOES

Whatever your problem, mashed potatoes help. A little garlic doesn't hurt, either.

- 4 cups cubed peeled baking potato
- 1 garlic clove, sliced
- 3/4 cup low-fat milk
- 2 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 Tbsp. margarine or butter
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

Place potato and garlic in a medium saucepan; add water to cover. Bring to a boil, cover, reduce heat and simmer 25 minutes or until tender. Drain. Return potato to pan. Add milk and remaining ingredients; mash with a potato masher. (Serves 4.)

RASPBERRY BUTTERMILK SHERBERT

Remember when you had your tonsils out? The milk shakes were the best part. Here's a smooth, cool treat for the sorest of throats.

- 420 gr. frozen unsweetened raspberries, thawed
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup low-fat milk
- 1 cup low-fat buttermilk

Place raspberries in a food processor and process until smooth. Strain raspberries through a sieve into a bowl, reserving raspberry puree. Discard solids. Combine raspberry puree, sugar and vanilla in a large bowl. Stir in milks.

Pour mixture into the freezer can of an ice-cream freezer and freeze according to manufacturer's instructions. Put ice cream into freezer-safe container; cover and freeze 1 hour or until firm. (Serves 7.)

GINGERBREAD

Ginger ale has long been used as a remedy for an upset stomach. But a generous slice of home-baked gingerbread could be just as effective. Research shows that compounds in ginger can sometimes suppress an upset stomach and nausea.

- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup margarine or butter, soft
- 1/3 cup molasses
- 1 large egg
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/8 tsp. salt

- 1/8 tsp. ground cloves
- 2/3 cup low-fat milk
- cooking spray
- 2 tsp. powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 175°.

Beat granulated sugar and margarine at medium speed of a mixer until well-blended (about 5 minutes). Add molasses and egg; beat well.

Lightly spoon flour into dry measuring cups and level with a knife. Combine flour and next 5 ingredients (flour through cloves). Add flour mixture to sugar mixture alternately with milk, beginning and ending with flour mixture.

Pour batter into a 20-cm. square baking pan coated with cooking spray. Bake at 175° for 30 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan on a wire rack. Sift powdered sugar over top of cake and serve warm. (Serves 9.)

LEMON-MERINGUE SURPRISE PIE

The surprise in this filling is tofu. Researchers find that in Asian countries where women eat a lot of tofu and other foods made from soybeans, hot flashes are rare. Phytoestrogens (plant estrogens), hormone-like substances found in soy foods, may be responsible. New studies are currently under way to examine soy as a natural alternative to hormone replacement.

- 1 cup firm tofu (about 200 gr.)
- 1 tsp. grated lemon rind
- 1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup cornstarch
- 2 large egg yolks, lightly beaten
- 23-cm. graham cracker crust
- 3 large egg whites at room temperature
- 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1/3 cup sugar

Preheat oven to 160°.

Combine the first 3 ingredients in a blender and process until smooth.

Combine water, 1 cup sugar and cornstarch in a medium-sized saucepan. Bring to a boil; cook 1 minute or until thick, stirring constantly with a whisk. Gradually add sugar mixture to egg yolks in a bowl, stirring constantly with a whisk. Return yolk mixture to pan. Bring to a boil over medium heat; cook 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in tofu mixture. Spread filling mixture evenly into crust.

Beat egg whites, cream of tartar and salt at high speed of a mixer until foamy. Gradually add 1/3 cup sugar, 1 Tbsp. at a time, beating until stiff peaks form. Spread evenly over filling, sealing to edge of crust. Bake at 160° for 25 minutes; cool 1 hour on a wire rack. Cut with a sharp knife dipped in hot water. (Serves 8.)

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By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Pizza, Sicilian style (OK)

The pizzerias back in Brooklyn always offered rectangular, thick-crust Sicilian pizza as well as their regular round pizzas, but the round pizzas always were more popular. Pizza Hut's new Sicilian pizza, made with a basil-and-olive-oil-seasoned crust, reminded me of the offerings at the pizzeria on Avenue J.

Although there is a slight flavor difference between the crust of the Sicilian and the regular pizza, the use of dried herbs does not make that difference significant.

The flavor is basically good, but I'm not a fan of thick, bread-like pizza crusts. The bottom was oily but nicely crisp. I like Pizza Hut's Neapolitan (thin crust) pizza the best. The Sicilian pizza, which serves 3-4, sells for NIS 65.

Garlic burger (avoid)

If I ever forget why I'm not a fast-food fan, I only need to visit Burger King to remember. Presented with a gift certificate to try the chain's new garlic burger as part of a "garlic burger meal," I decided to take my kids to where they know I'd never take them ordinarily.

The skinny chips might be good hot, but the moment they cool down a bit, they taste like shoe leather.

The orange juice tasted like sweetened orange drink rather than real juice.

The kids tasted the chicken pieces, breaded of course, and told me they prefer "real food." So do I.

Kosher for Pessah (good)

Well they went and did it. Elite has just created chocolate- and nut-filled wafer cookies that manage to be both delicious and kosher for Pessah.

As a matter of fact, neither my kids nor their friends noticed a difference in taste.

I think they taste better and are lighter when they are made out of potato flour than when they are made out of wheat flour. Plus, unlike most Pessah foods, you won't mind finishing them even after the holiday is over.

Although they contain partly hydrogenated fats, unidentified flavors, stabilizers and vanilla, they are better than a lot of other Pessah sweets.

The wafers are certified kosher by the Nazareth Ili Rabbinate. 500 gr. sell for NIS 18.90.

Other Pessah versions of Elite favorites include Pesek Zman

Phyllis's Tips

The garlic burger meal consists of a Garlic Whopper, french fries and a beverage for NIS 23.90.

The burger itself wasn't bad, although you are eating lots of bread, ketchup, mustard and pickles and little meat, and the garlic taste remains with you long after the burger is gone.

The orange juice tasted like sweetened orange drink rather than real juice.

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By PHYLLIS GLAZER

We try not to buy manufactured foods because we are wary of the additives that they contain.

We know that it is impossible to completely eliminate these additives from our diet given the amount of pesticides, artificial fertilizers and hormones, etc. used today, but we try to keep them to a minimum.

Lastly our grandchildren have developed a taste for sausages and kishke. Is there anywhere that one can buy edible plastic or natural casings that we can use to make our own sausages and kishke?

I am reluctant to use aluminum for lengthy cooking and muslin is not the same as sausage skins.

— Franya Baretti, Jerusalem

If you are looking for natural and organic franks, there are pretty good ones available frozen in

health-food stores, where you also can find cured meats, none of which contain nitrates or phosphates.

The Falcon chain of kosher meat stores sometimes makes its own sausages with no additives. Maybe you can buy casings from one of its stores.

We are planning a trip to France, and would like to take a short cooking course in English. Do you have any suggestions?

— Judy Goldstein, Haifa

Paul Bocuse and his team have a week-long cooking course in English that includes bed and board.

The price is \$1,300 for the package. You can reach them via the Internet at www.each-lyon.com

I have three missions in my life as a gastronome: finding the best coffee in Israel; finding the best hummus in Israel; and finding the best pizza in Israel. Very simple. Can you help?

— Larry Zeldeneber, Hod Hasharon

The best coffee I have had in Israel was, strangely enough, at my hairdresser's salon. He uses Kimbo brand coffee, a great

espresso machine and lots of foamy milk, and puts cinnamon on top. (But you have to have a haircut to get the coffee.)

After Kimbo, I like Ily coffee best. Another delicious option is Arcate, which is located in the industrial zone of Herzliya.

This espresso bar imports its own coffee and grinds it on the premises.

As for hummus, my favorite is found at Misadex Yaffo ("Jaffa Restaurant") at 95 Yefet Street in Jaffa.

The restaurant makes fabulous hummus and Palestinian national dishes like feteer and this-abehe.

My vote for the best pizza in Israel goes to Il Pizzaiolo at 122 Rehov Ben-Yehuda in Tel Aviv. Il Pizzaiolo's wonderful thin-crust pizza makes you feel like you're sitting in a pizza in a little town in northern Italy.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted at The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by E-mail: phyllisglazer@jpost.co.il

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

Wine Cellar

Tzora wine releases

By NORA TANNENBERG

The Tzora winery, with its vineyards on the gently sloping hills not far from Beit Shמש, in many ways represents the ideal of small-scale, pastoral wine growing.

The winery, which is part of Kibbutz Tzora, produces approximately 45,000 bottles a year of which 20,000 are sold and the rest are given away.

Tzora produces the kind of high-quality wines that characterize all fine boutique wineries: not only those here in Israel, but also those around the world. It is one of a growing number of wineries that have changed the face of the Israeli market in recent years.

Tzora's wine, made by James, spent numerous years growing grapes and making wine in the kibbutz vineyard before coming to wine making.

This is evident in the wines, which are local in the best sense of the word, representing not only their vineyard but also the qualities and characteristics of the land on which they were grown.

Tzora's 1996 vintage, the 1997 vintage are to be released shortly.

The Sauvignon Blanc Supreme 1997, a deep lustrous blond in color, is a full-bodied wine with a

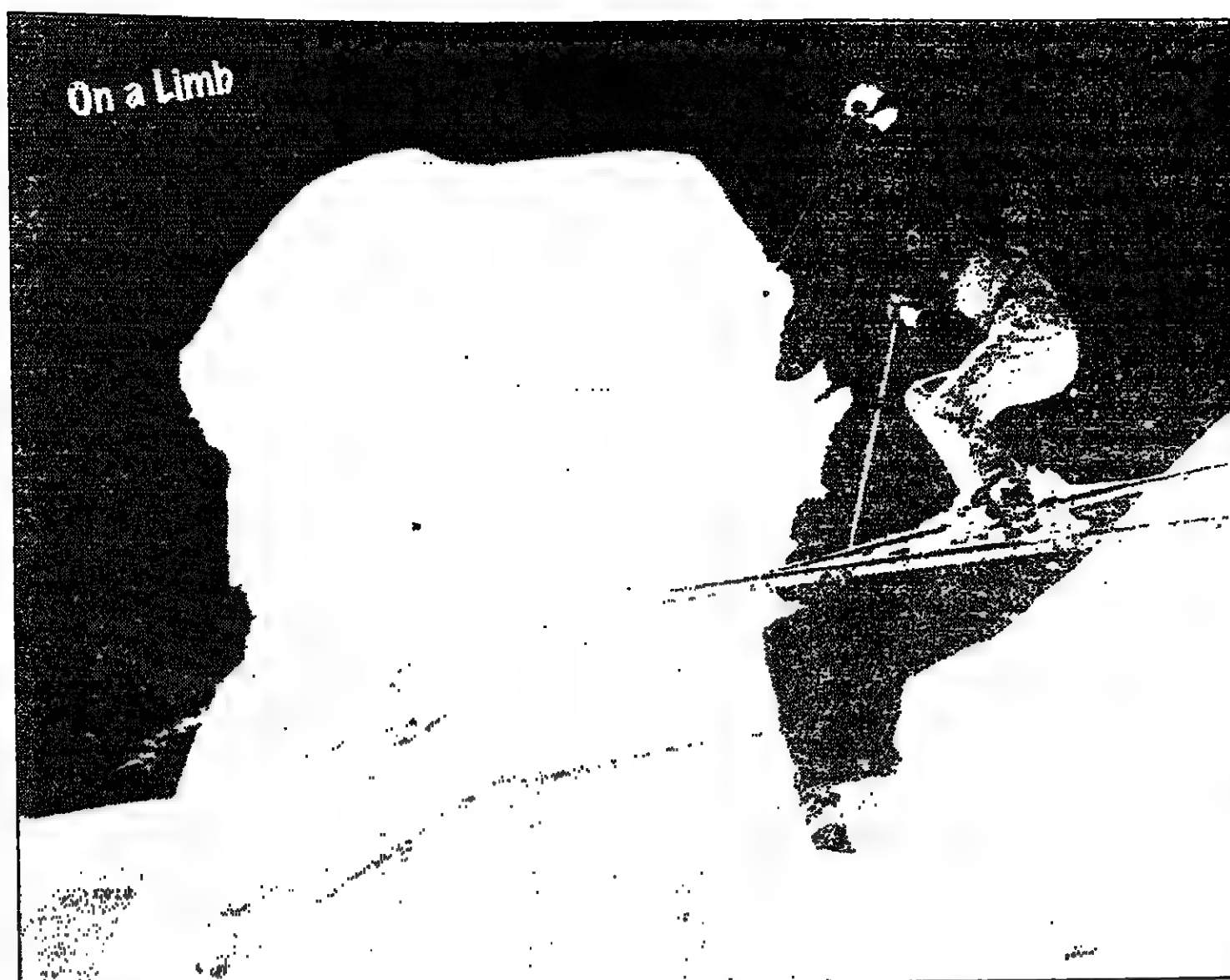
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Speed freak or control freak? You make the call

Skiing the Hermon: As cool as it gets

By TRACY FISKE

This year was a public-relations nightmare for the ski industry. Not one, but two celebrities died on the slopes. When Michael Kennedy crashed into a tree trunk playing football on skis, we chalked it up to the Kennedy curse of dying young. But when Sonny Bono met his fate in a similar accident, many began to wonder just how safe it is to fly down a snowy incline with two long, narrow boards strapped to your feet.

Of course, downhill skiing wasn't meant for the faint-hearted anyway, and if there was any fear lurking in the hearts and minds of the thousands of people who showed up from all over the country to the Mt. Hermon ski resort this past weekend, I didn't smell it.

For a country that only has one ski facility, which was only open for a couple of days this season, I was quite impressed with the local skiers, who, in accordance with the sport's most fundamental rule, looked cool. From expensive equipment, to fashionable snow suits, to crazy, colorful court-jester hats, the skiers at Mt. Hermon were styling.

And they could ski too, no doubt thanks to frequent jaunts abroad, to the mountains of Turkey, Andorra, France, Switzerland and even Romania.

I divide skiers into two categories: the speed freak and the control freak. Speed freaks are always seeking the perfect run. These daredevils thrive on the rush of adrenaline they get as they conquer the slope by gliding, turning and jumping their way down

the snow-covered terrain — the faster the better.

The control freaks are more subdued skiers. They are willing and ready to sacrifice speed for control and finesse. They shy away from "catching air," or choosing those trails that are pocked with challenging moguls — bumps created by skiers who turn in the same place, scraping out a dip and pushing up the snow into a pronounced mound. Having once dated a speed freak who always encouraged me to ski "faster, faster," I'm constantly pushing myself to let go more on the slope. But I am, by nature, a control freak.

However we may classify ourselves as skiers, we must all start out by learning the basics, and the first lesson is usually how to fall. When you feel yourself beginning

to lose control — and if it's your first day out on the snow, this will be a recurring phenomenon — bend your knees, keeping your feet together, and fall, gently if possible, to one side. The bindings of beginners' skis should be adjusted in such a way that your skis pop off as you fall. This is designed to prevent messy entanglements of the legs in awkward spills, thus avoiding injury.

Don't be discouraged if you seem to spend more time on your butt than swishing gracefully down the bunny slope on your first day. Think of it as your initiation, a necessary evil you must endure. You'll be amazed at how agile you will feel on only your second time out.

Beginners should begin skiing in the snow-pow position. This is when the tips of your skis are

pointed together, and the ends are pointed out, forming a V-shape. Increasing the wedge by moving your heels outward, and digging the inside edges of the skis into the snow will enable you to slow down, and even stop — if you're lucky.

Turning is the key to controlling your speed. From the snow-pow, bend your knees slightly and shift your pressure to the outside ski. (If you're turning left, the outside ski is on your right foot.) Dig the inside edge of the outer ski into the snow, pushing against it. As you finish your turn, rise up into a gliding plow before starting the next turn.

As you become a more experienced skier, you will gradually leave the rather awkward snow-pow behind for the faster, more aesthetic world of parallel skiing.

This is when both skis are side by side, nearly touching, facing down the mountain. The more parallel your skis, the cooler you look. Not only that, this style of skiing is actually less tiring and gives you more acceleration.

To turn while parallel skiing, also shift the pressure to your outside ski, planting your ski pole on that side into the snow just in front of you. Now actually lift your inside ski to meet the outside. In this way, the turn is achieved with a good deal of speed and a parallel skid.

But this is all much easier to conceptualize when you're bundled up on a blustery winter day, surrounded by the thickly blanketed mountains and valley, with the snow under your skis and the blue skies above.

Mt. Hermon is a resort worth

visiting for its fabulous vistas alone. Current conditions there are very good. All trails are open and snowy, all chair lifts operational. Management at the site is hoping that the two meters of snow dumped on the region last week will take the season all the way to Pessah.

And with El Niño wreaking havoc on weather patterns worldwide, I'm optimistically predicting some spring-time snow on the northern border.

Prices at Mt. Hermon: Entrance (and only entrance) to the site, NIS 28; ski pass, NIS 105; equipment, 130; Group ski lessons, NIS 70 for an hour and a half; private lessons, NIS 140 for an hour. Call (06) 698-1333 for conditions, accommodations and ski packages.

Day Tripper By Haim Shapiro

Where have all the landscapes gone?

The change has been so gradual, it has almost gone unnoticed. But for those who recall the Israel of several decades ago, it has become harder and harder to find the bare, stony hillsides that were once so typical of the local landscape.

These days there are more buildings and homes on both sides of the Green Line. Even the open spaces are becoming more and more planned. That is not to say that I don't appreciate the new

parks or that I think the JNF is wrong in its reforestation efforts, but from time to time I do miss the barren landscapes.

I thought of this recently during a visit to Natuf, a small community where one actually does see such hillsides. The visit was under the auspices of Map publishers as a promotion for their latest offering, the Hebrew-language *Madrich Mapa Lenofesh Vetiylul* (Map's Tourism & Resorts Guide to Israel). This is just one of the many

atlases and guides the public can benefit from as a result of the competition between the two publishers of such works, Map and Carta.

The resorts guide includes an alphabetical listing of locations, which is extensive, but sometimes a little confusing. There is also a complete road atlas, all in a fairly compact, easy-to-handle format.

The entry for Natuf, for example, explains that it is a moshav in the Jerusalem hills, some six kilometers northwest of Abu Ghosh. The residents bought the land from residents of Abu Ghosh. Then they conducted a protracted court battle, petitioning that the land, which until then had been classified for agricultural use, could be used for residential purposes.

Locals now have the advantage of being able to look out from their houses at the untouched landscape. Unfortunately, they are part of an ever-expanding development. In no time, no doubt, their untouched spot will become a mini-metropolis.

Meanwhile, for the visitor, there is a pleasant drive along a narrow road with hardly any traffic, first through forests and then along the hillside. For those who feel that they have to do something when they arrive, there is a restaurant, which is to open during the week of Pessah, and afterward will be open only on Thursdays and Fridays.

Nearby is a nursery that is open on weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; on Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and on Shabbat from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is also a small dairy nearby which produces goat cheese.

To get to Natuf, follow the road into Abu Ghosh from the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Highway. There is a sign to Natuf. Following it will take you up through the village to the crest of the hill. From there, the entire way to Natuf is virtually downhill.

Where to eat in Israel

TEL AVIV

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HERZLIYA PITUAH

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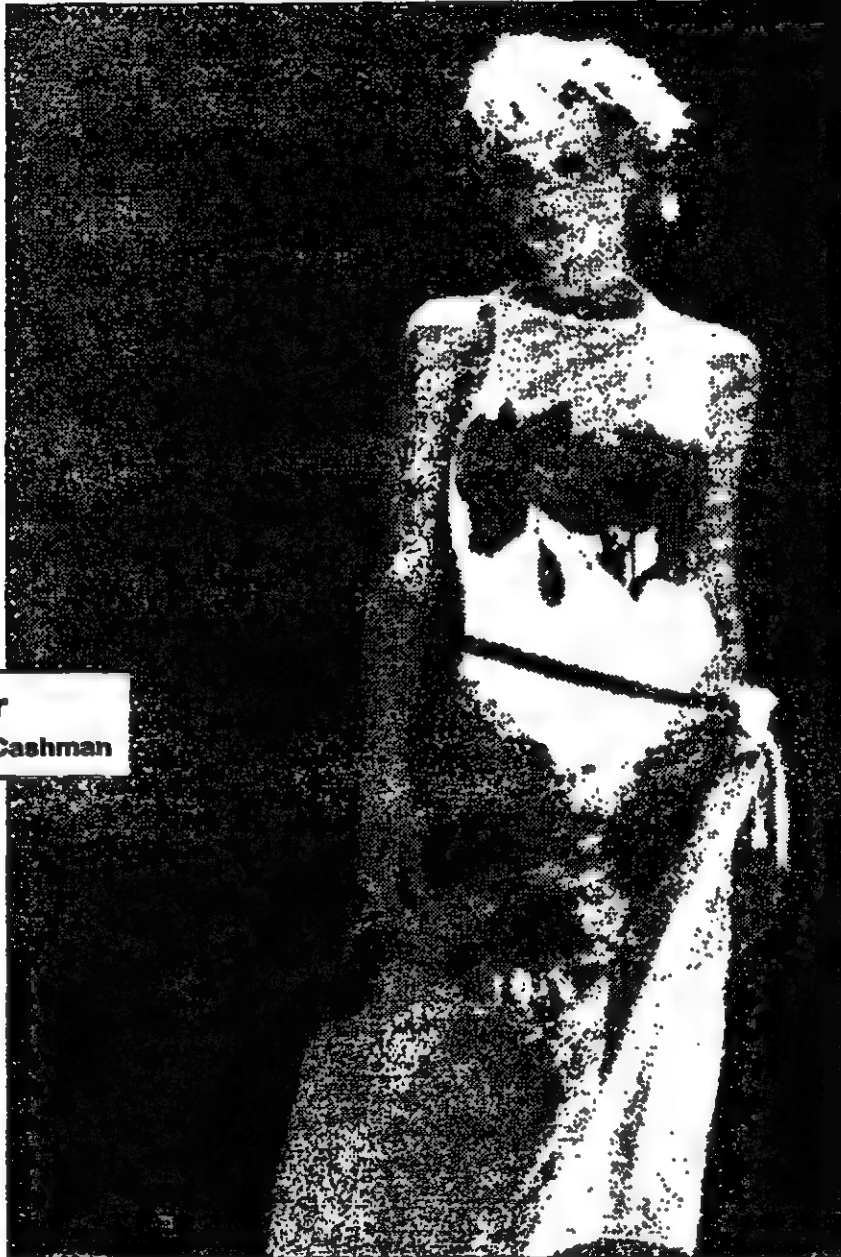
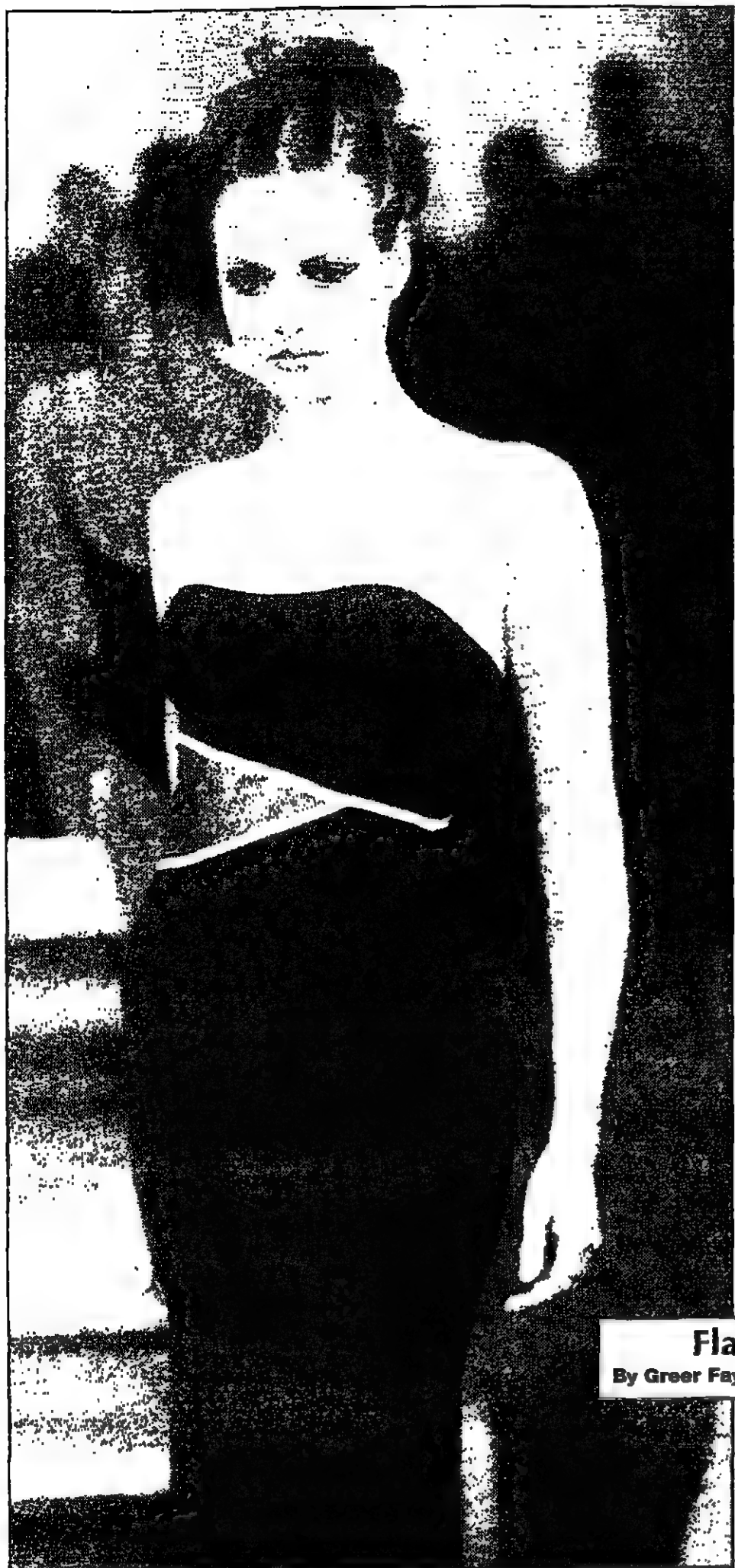
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"Map's Tourism & Resorts Guide to Israel" includes an alphabetical listing of locations. There is also a complete road atlas, all in a fairly compact, easy-to-handle format.

Weekender Leisure



Flair

By Greer Fay Cashman

One of the best Gottex collections in years: (Clockwise from above) This long strapless dress would be as at home in the ballroom as on the beachfront; Animal prints introduce a wild element into the collection; Lea Gottlieb's floral tradition is evident in this white bathing suit emblazoned with huge red poppies, and matching gossamer cover-up; One-shoulder suits contribute to the very Mediterranean look of this year's collection.

Gottex – beachwear fit for a ballroom

If anyone helped swimwear get where it is today, it's Lea Gottlieb," said Haim Barkan, chairman of the board of Africa Israel's Gottex Division. He was speaking at the first Gottex show since the company's takeover by Africa Israel.

Barkan made it clear that Africa Israel has no intention of reducing the Gottlieb family's imprint on Gottex. He salutes Lea Gottlieb as "the high priestess of swimwear."

In an effort to prove that the Gottex luxury image will be preserved, Africa Israel turned on a lavish pre- and post-show brunch at its Or Yehuda plant. The feast was so sumptuous that some of the guests will still be counting their calories for months to come.

In the catalog, Gottlieb shares her design credits with her daughter, Judith Gottlieb and Miriam Ruzow. The catalog itself was conceived and designed by Gottlieb.

The collection is one of the best that Gottex has produced in years, partially because it has almost – but not quite – departed from its floral tradition. Lea Gottlieb has always been enchanted by flowers. Their shapes and their colors inspired and dominated each new collection in single motifs and all-over prints. This time around, the flowers were printed back, with the notable exception of huge red poppies blazing gloriously on white or black swimsuits and matching gossamer cover-ups, edged with the same shade of poppy red.

Much more eye-catching were the seductive high-legged white maillots (one-piece) and two-piece suits in ripple-textured fabrics, and the asymmetrically cut and wrapped navy maillots accentuated by white ribbon binding. The same concept was repeated in long strapless dresses which would have been as much at home in the ballroom as on the beachfront.



Even more in the ballroom-style category were the long, white organza trench coats which opened the show, and the magnificent skin-colored crocheted cover-ups, especially the coat which was teamed with a matching swimsuit with a crocheted torso.

The black and white Op-Art group, with clever harmony between the swimwear design and the graphic prints, drew critical acclaim from a large group of buyers and fashion writers. Modern technology which "burnt" diaphanous sections into the fabric without in any way interfering with the print added interest in this group.

Animal prints introduced a wild element into the collection, while colorful Picasso graphics stood out in sharp contrast against the black backdrop on swimsuits and cover-ups. Stripes in neutrals and rainbow hues and washes in sea greens and blues provided a fresh and bouncy contrast to some of the more starkly sophisticated lines.

There was a range of styles: lots of strapless and one-shoulder suits, spiderweb straps, skirted swimming costumes, tight-fitting short shorts, capri pants and sheer, mesh and glitter fabrics, which together combined to project a very Mediterranean look.

While Gottex is obviously very keen to increase its export markets under its new management, it will also pay more attention than before to the folks at home. A factory store is about to open at the old Gottex factory plant on Mordechai Anielewicz Street in Tel Aviv, where the general public will be able to purchase surplus stock and seconds at considerably reduced prices.

Bridge A game of the brave

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

North dealer
Neither side vulnerable

North
♠ 42
♥ 63
♦ A Q J 10 8
♣ A 8 6 4

West
♠ Q J 9 7 5
♥ J 2
♦ K 9 7 5
♣ K 2

East
♠ K 10 3
♥ Q 5 4
♦ 6 4 3 2
♣ Q J 3

South
♠ A 8 6
♥ A K 10 9 8 7
♦ —
♣ 10 9 7 5

West North East South
1 ♠ pass 1 ♠
pass 2 ♠ pass 3 ♠
pass 4 ♠ pass 4 ♠
(all pass)

Opening lead: ♠ Q

The International Bridge Festival in Tel Aviv last month turned out to be a success despite the worries of the organizers. It took place during the last week of February when the crisis in Iraq was at its height, and a few of the foreign players canceled. Nevertheless, bridge players on the whole are a brave lot, at least when it comes to finishing a bridge hand they've already started.

I remember one incident at a tournament in California, where a bomb threat was announced, and not one of the 200 players in the room got up from his seat. Everyone had paid his card fee and, besides, the bridge hands that round were particularly challenging. On another occasion, a bridge club in New York was robbed at gun point, but the players refused to move. "We'll give you some money," said the dummy to the gunmen, "but come back in 10 minutes after we finish this hand."

Today's deal features two visitors to the festival from London, Tom Townsend, who sat West, and Willie Whitaker, who sat East. Whitaker was the hero when he found a good defense to defeat the contract of four hearts. The final contract was correct, but the bidding was a bit strange.

North opened one diamond, which was a slight overbid, and his partner responded one heart. Now North should show his second suit, clubs, but instead he rebid his diamond suit. South's next bid was three clubs and North raised to four clubs. When

South rebid his hearts at the four level, North was very happy to pass. He had already bid a lot with his 11 points.

Townsend's opening lead was the queen of spades. Declarer made his plan (a wise move) and then called a low spade from the North hand. Whitaker could tell from the lead that his partner held the queen and jack of spades, and that if he played low on the queen of spades, declarer might allow his partner to win the trick. This would leave his partner with a tough decision at trick two. So Whitaker played his king on his partner's queen and, when South played low, Whitaker was on lead instead.

Now, Whitaker thought: "If I return a spade, declarer will win the ace and ruff a spade. Then he will be able to lead diamonds and set up lots of tricks by giving up a diamond to my partner's king (if he has the king). Therefore, it looks right to attack dummy's entry."

Whitaker returned a low club, in the hope that his partner held the king (he didn't want to block up the suit by returning the queen of clubs). The club suit defeated the contract. Declarer won the club ace in dummy and took his only chance. He led the ace of diamonds, discarding a club, and the queen of diamonds.

If East held the king of diamonds, declarer would trump it and return to dummy with spade ace and a spade ruff. But East played low on the queen of diamonds, and declarer discarded another club, taking a "ruffing finesse."

West won the trick with the king and returned a club to his partner's jack. The defenders had three tricks and scored a trump trick as well for one down.

Notice that if East returns a trump at trick two, declarer makes his contract. He reaches dummy with a spade ruff, leads the ace of diamonds and plays the queen of diamonds, discarding clubs from his hand. West may shift to a club, but declarer wins dummy's ace and plays a diamond winner, discarding his last club, losing only one spade, one heart and one diamond.

The result was duplicated at the other table. But there East followed low on the queen-of-spades lead, and West, after winning the first trick, shifted to the king of clubs, destroying the contract from the other side.

Readers may contact Matthew Granovetter by email at gran@netvision.net.il

Chess Unseating a champion

By NIGEL SHORT

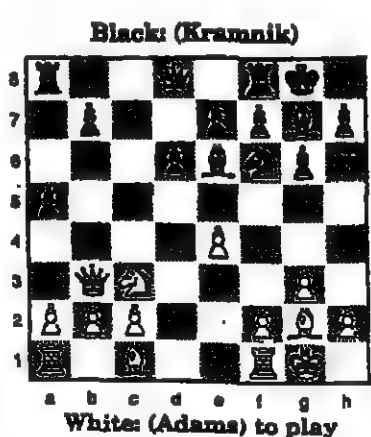
Garry Kasparov has not defended his title since 1995 when he defeated Anand in New York. Traditionally world champions have been compelled to face a challenger at least once every three years. To retain credibility he must be prepared to enter the fray soon.

The only real question is "who should he face"? There are a few who would advocate Anatoly Karpov, the FIDE champion, although it is hard to see why a 46-year-old who has failed on his five previous attempts to defeat Kasparov can do anything other than offer himself as a punchbag.

However, it looks increasingly likely that Garry will meet either Kramnik or Anand, which, from a chess point of view promises to be very interesting. Kramnik is clearly the man most likely to unseat the champion because he has the toughness which Anand is lacking. Furthermore he is in excellent form.

White: Adams
Black: Kramnik
Wijk aan zee, 1998

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 d6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Nf6 6. g3 g6 7. Bg2 Nxd4 8. Qxd4 Bg7 9. Q-0-0 10. Qb4? Mickey also played this dubious move against me in Groningen in December. Luckily for him he was facing an opponent with pre-senile dementia. I could remember that I had successfully played this move myself against Gulko in Reykjavik some years previously (a game at which Adams had been present) and that I had subsequently discovered that it was no good whatsoever. I also knew that the refutation involved playing a5 and sacrificing the b-pawn, but I could neither remember the variations nor work them out over the board in the limited time available (15 minutes for the whole game). 10... a5 11. Qb3 Bc6!



Calling White's bluff. If he cannot take the b-pawn then the queen excursion makes no sense at all. 12. Nd5? Attempting to side-step the pawn offer but running into even greater trouble. It was better just to grab and hope, e.g., 12. Qxb7 Rb8 (12... Nd7 is also playable) 13. Qe7 (13. Qa6 Qc7) 13... Nd7 14. Qe3 Qc7 and Black exerts tremendous pressure on the undeveloped queenside, but the game is by no means over. 12... a4! Forcing matters. 13. Qxb7 Nxd5 14. exd5 Bf5. The raking bishops more than compensate for the pawn deficit. 15. Bg5 Qb8! 16. Qxb8 Rxb8 17. Bxe7 Rxb2 18. a3 Rxc2 19. Rael Ra6. Material equilibrium has been reestablished but there remains a gulf of a difference between the activity of the two forces. 20. Be4 Bxe4 21. Rxe4 Bb2 22. Rf1 Rcl! Heading for a winning endgame. 23. Rcl Bcl 24. Bf6 Ra8 25. Rcl Bxa3 26. Bcl. Apparently dominating the black bishop. 26... Bc5? 27. Bxc5 dxc5 28. Rxc5 a3 29. Rcl a2. Demonstrating the power of the rook behind the passed pawn. If now 30. Ra1 Kf8 the king will march over and gobble the d-pawn leaving White helpless. White resigned.

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Thursday,
March 26, 1998

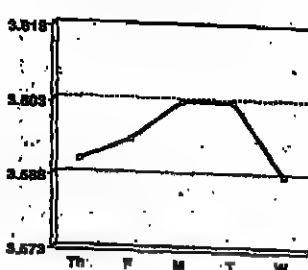
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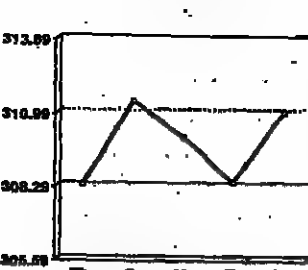
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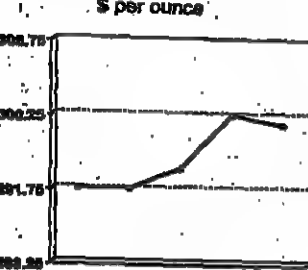
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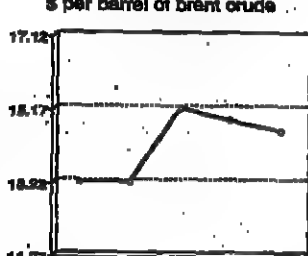
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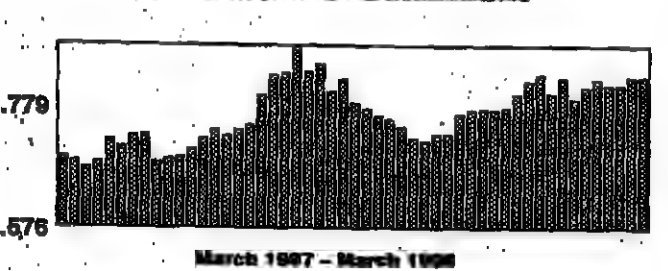
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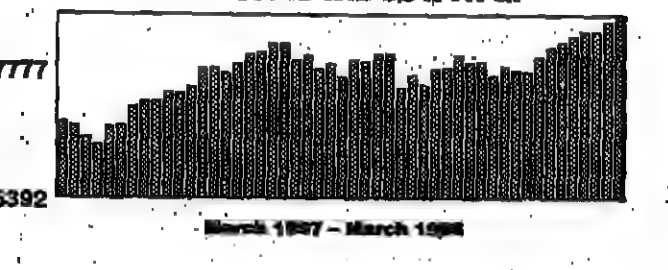
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DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Boeing, IAI ink \$163m. F-15 deal

By FELICE MARAZZ

Boeing Co. said yesterday it had signed a contract worth \$163 million with Israel Aircraft Industries' Lahav unit for the supply of equipment for F-15 fighter jets. IAI will make and assemble fuel tanks, fuselage side panels, doors and other parts for the planes. Delivery runs through December 31, 2001.

The contract "is a testament to IAI Lahav's commitment to delivering high quality, cost competitive components on schedule," said Jack House, director of supplier management and procurement for Boeing's McDonnell Aircraft and Missile Systems, in a

statement. Earlier this month, Boeing said it will buy 42% of Rada Electronic Industries Ltd., which makes aircraft test equipment and electronic systems, for \$10 million. In December, a Boeing vice president said the Seattle-based aircraft producer would expand its activities in Israel. Boeing has purchased \$330 million of goods, including aircraft parts, in Israel from 1977 to 1997, according to the Industry and Trade Ministry. Also in December, El Al chose Boeing to supply the state-owned airline with five model 737 planes. Boeing beat competitor Airbus Industrie to supply the planes. (Bloomberg)

Government to sell 49% of IEC

Globe News Service

The government plans to sell up to 49 percent of the Israel Electric Corporation on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Prime Minister's Office Director-General Moshe Leon said yesterday. Privatization of the company through the capital market will be executed in stages, to enable the state to execute the planned structural reform in energy and electricity, he said.

But Leon stressed that no firm decisions

had yet been made on the matter.

"The intention is to float IEC on the stock exchange. Privatization of IEC is presently under examination by the Government Corporations Authority," said Leon.

According to Leon, the plan is to start privatizing the company during 1999. However, the size of the offering will be determined only nearer the date of issuance.

"Each unit of 1% of shares in IEC amounts to a great deal of money," said Leon.

Leon stressed that the government intends to continue holding 51% of the company's shares.

"The state must not transfer a monopoly to private hands," he said.

To prevent the transfer of control to private hands, the government plans to enact special orders which will ensure a wide spread of shares among the public, and prevent the accumulation of shares through the stock exchange, that could create a controlling interest.

Privatization of IEC will therefore be

accomplished in the same fashion as the El Al privatization. Leon said he hopes the privatization of El Al will be accomplished by the end of the year.

Leon stressed that El Al will not fly on Shabbat while the government retains 51% of the shares.

In response to Leon's comments, the IEC said: "This is the first time we have heard the figures quoted by Leon regarding a share offering. Upon receipt of a written and orderly proposal, we will study it and respond accordingly."

EU finds 11 nations fit for euro

By IAN GEOGHEGAN

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Eleven European Union nations were declared fit yesterday to launch a single currency that the bloc hopes will guarantee Europe its place among the world's greatest economic powers.

"This is an important epoch that will decisively influence our country, the European Union and the world," said German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the architect of Europe's economic and monetary union (EMU).

French President Jacques Chirac called the blessing bestowed on the 11 EU nations chosen for the single currency by the European Commission and the European Monetary Institute in Frankfurt the start of a new era.

"We are giving ourselves a monetary tool which will be one of the most important in the world," he told reporters.

European Commission President Jacques Santer predicted the new euro, spanning nearly 300 million people from Lisbon to Helsinki, would join the world's premier currencies.

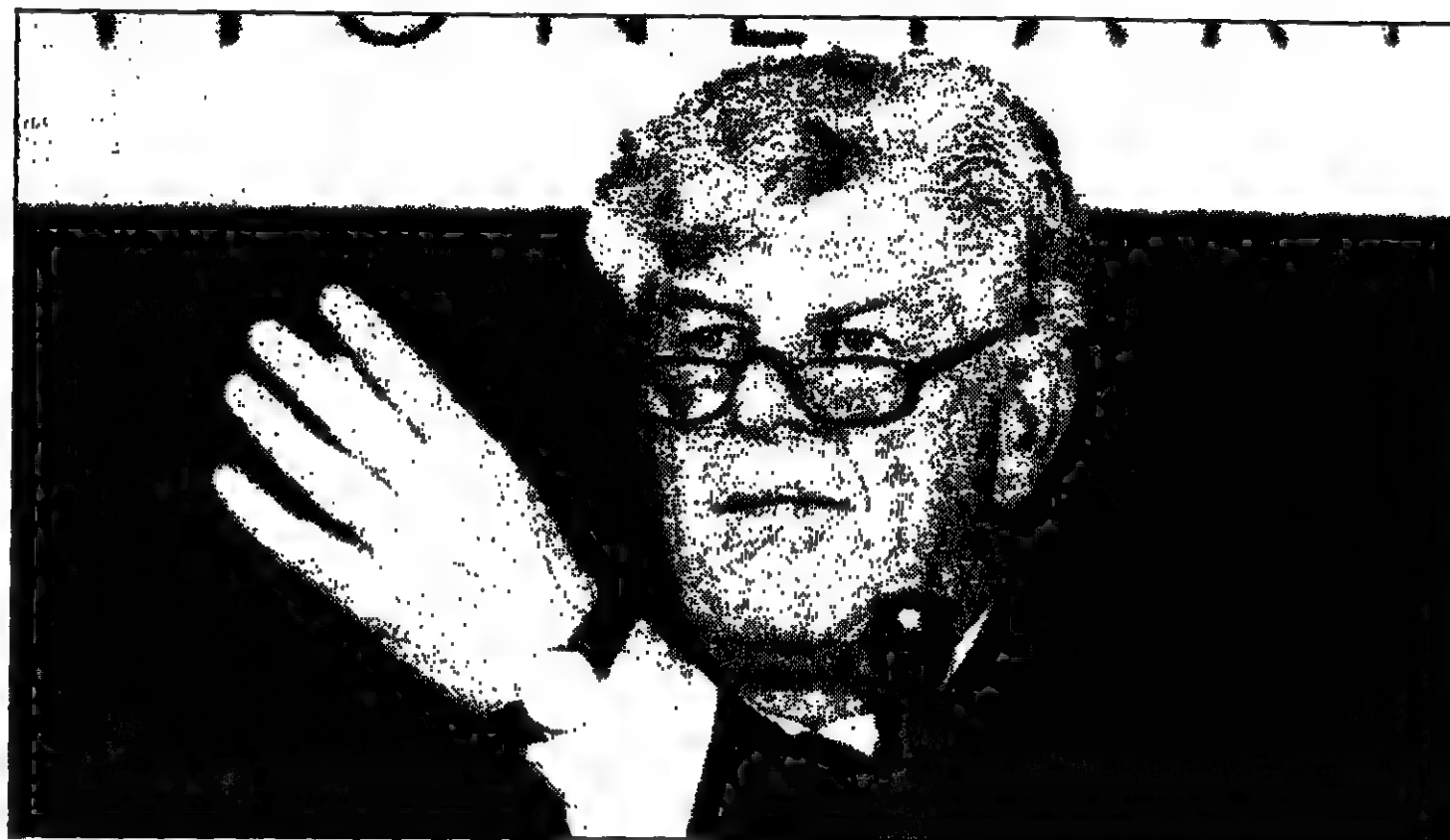
"There will be a stability zone incorporating the euro, the US dollar and the Japanese yen," Santer told the European Parliament.

In two separate reports, the bloc's executive commission and the EMI said Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland had made enough economic progress to join the first wave, although the EMI voiced lingering doubts.

The forerunner to a future European Central Bank was more critical than the commission about some states' public finances, raising worries about the sustainability of Italy's drive to financial stability.

Despite that, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi declared Italy had reached its goal of joining EMU, saying: "We have achieved the objective we set ourselves from the first day of our government." Financial markets took the reports in their stride, with European bonds holding firm and major currencies mostly stable.

The EMI said progress towards economic convergence in the EU had advanced considerably since 1996, but warned that lasting cor-



European Monetary Institute President Wim Duisenberg holds a press conference in Frankfurt yesterday after the release of the EMI's report of European economic convergence. (AP)

rective policies were still needed in most countries.

"Within the context of a single monetary policy, the adjustments seen over the recent past need to be carried substantively further," it said. "Indeed, decisive and sustained corrective policies of a structural nature are warranted in most countries."

Santer praised EU members for their efforts in curbing state debts and deficits, proclaiming: "A Europe that does something like this is a Europe that can win, a Europe that can move into the 21st century with confidence."

But he acknowledged that while the launch of the euro appeared unstoppable, the bloc still faced a hard job to convince people to readily give up their beloved national currencies.

"We need to make much more effort...to get the euro accepted by our citizens. It's absolutely vital that the man in the street, the consumer, sees the euro as being in his or her interest."

"The euro is not an end in itself."

It's an instrument at the service of the citizen, of a strong economy, jobs and the international status of the Union," he said.

Britain and Denmark have opted to stay out of EMU for now, while Sweden has decided not to join from the start even though it has no formal opt-out. Greece has said it will not be ready to join until 2001.

European Economic Affairs Commissioner Yves-Thibault de Silguy kept the heat on Sweden and Britain, insisting their currencies join the bloc's exchange rate mechanism (ERM) before entering monetary union.

The Commission barred Sweden from early EMU entry as the crown had not been part of the semi-fixed currency grid. On a strict interpretation, neither the lira nor the Finnish markka met this criteria, but were among the chosen 11.

Britain, which has consigned itself to the EMU touchline for now, reaffirmed it has no plans to re-join the ERM which it left unceremoniously in 1992.

The final decision on which nations will be in EMU's founding group will be taken by EU leaders at a special summit in Brussels on May 1-2.

With the EMU team selection now a formality, attention will focus on the sustainability of the economies that have gone on a crash diet to meet EMU qualification targets.

German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said the two reports showed that a stability culture had already developed to an impressive degree in Europe, but added that Germany, the bedrock of

Europe's financial strength, would continue to stress the sustainability of convergence in the EMU run-up.

Both the EMI and the Dutch Central Bank, which put out its own critical assessment of progress towards EMU, had words of caution on the frailty of Italy's public finances.

The Dutch, worried about Italy and Belgium's public debt ratios, want to advance a 1999 deadline for member states to submit their stability programs to boost confidence in Europe's most ambitious project.

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ECI sets up joint venture in Turkey

By NINA GILBERT

ECI Telecom is establishing a joint venture with a Turkish telecommunications company for the distribution and servicing of its products, CEO and president David Rubner said yesterday.

"There is great potential for ECI to expand in Turkey and to address the country's telecommunications needs," he said.

The Petah Tikva-based company is to open an office in Turkey shortly to operate the venture, in which it will hold 50 percent, he added. ECI's sales in 1997 were \$671.7 million and its net income was \$132.4m.

Company officials accompanied Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky on a trade visit to Turkey this week. On Monday, Sharansky met with several Turkish ministers, including Communications and Transport Minister Necdet Menezir, to whom he presented the potential for cooperation between the two countries and the accomplishments of Israeli telecommunications companies.

Sharansky and Turkish Foreign Trade Minister Isin Celebi signed a joint letter to the European Union,

calling on the bloc to recognize products produced jointly by Turkey and Israel for purposes of cumulation of origin, so they can enjoy free-trade status.

He also met with the Turkish Health Minister Hail Ibrahim Uzawi, who said his country is most interested in cooperating with Israel in the health field, including the establishment of health centers in remote areas.

Representatives of Israeli med-

ical equipment companies took part in the meeting, including the Haifa-based Eiscint Systems, Mennen Medical Ltd. of Ness Ziona and Jerusalem-based Tattmeyer Co. Another firm, Yeholot Ltd. of Tel Aviv, presented a plan for establishing medical centers in Turkey.

In response, the Turkish minister invited Israeli companies to participate in 11 tenders in the medical field that are soon to be published.

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

TENDER NO. 98/2.D.A. SHIPMENT OF GRAINS IN AMERICAN FLAG VESSELS

In connection with the need to meet the Government's undertaking regarding the carriage of goods, the Accountant General invites relevant proposals, which should give rates for the shipment of grain from the United States to Israel in American flag vessels, for the period between April 15, 1998 and July 19, 1998.

Proposals should be submitted to the Ministry of Finance by April 8, 1998 (9 a.m.).

Details are available from Mr. Yitzhak Klein or Mr. Avi Dor, Department of Accountant General, Ministry of Finance, 1 Kaplan St., Jerusalem, room 533, Tel. 02-531-7457, 02-531-7461.

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Ministry of Finance - Accountant General Authority for the Construction of Government Complexes and Courthouses INVITATION TO BID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF AN ENERGY CENTER IN KIRYAT BEN-GURION, JERUSALEM Tender 6/98

The State of Israel, represented by the Authority for the Construction of Government Complexes and Courthouses, invites bids for the construction of an Energy Center, on the Design, Build, Operate, Transfer system. The Center will serve government offices, to be built in Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem.

The Energy Center - services it will supply, and work to be carried out by successful bidder:

- Supply of cooled water and hot water, for the air-conditioning systems of the buildings (including installation of pipework).
- Construction and maintenance of electric transformer sub-stations (including installation of cables) in the Energy Center and the buildings.
- Installation and maintenance of heat exchangers (high temperature water) in buildings.
- Installation and operation of electric stand-by generators.
- Construction and maintenance of emergency water system (including installation of pipework).
- Construction of burial system, for pipes and electric cables for the above installations and for the provision of the services, and also for the cables for communications and control systems.

The project will be implemented in five main stages. The Authority undertakes to purchase from the successful bidder the services necessary for a total area of 82,000 sq.m. (plus the area of the actual building) at the times stated in the tender documents. The other stages in the project, leading up to the provision of services for a total of 200,000 sq.m., are now being planned, and the Authority does not undertake to implement them.

The successful bidder will design and construct the Energy Center, in accordance with the instructions contained in the tender documents, and will operate and maintain the Center for 20 years, after which he will hand over the building and installations to the Authority. The Authority retains the right to extend the period in which the successful bidder operates the Center, for two 5-year periods. The building and installations will be the property of the Authority, throughout the period of the agreement.

The Authority will rent the office areas in the building from the successful bidder, on terms stated in the tender documents.

When calculating the fixed payment he requires, the successful bidder will include the allocation for the project systems, allowing the sum stated in the tender documents. Pre-conditions:

- The bidder should be a company registered in Israel, and comply with the conditions detailed in the tender documents.
- Financial conditions:

1. Paid-up capital, as given in the consolidated, audited financial statements, of over NIS50, annual income in each of the years, 1996, 1997, of at least NIS 620,000, or alternatively, the bidder may be an investment company with paid-up capital of over NIS200 million; ALSO
2. The bidder must attach to his bid a letter of recommendation from a recognized financial institution, confirming that the bidder is capable of fulfilling his obligations of NIS100 million. This letter should be drawn up, in accordance with the draft text attached to the tender.

"Professional" Conditions

The tender documents give details of requirements specific to the project, and requirements relating to the bidder's experience, required in each of the fields involved, and necessary if the bidder is to fulfill his obligations, in accordance with the tender.

The bidder must prove that he himself fulfills all the requirements and has the experience described in the tender documents, or that he is associated with a contractor or contractors who fulfill the requirements and have the necessary experience.

From March 23, 1998, the tender documents may be obtained from Tefnit Wind Ltd., Technology Park, Building No. 1, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-6796333 (between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.), against payment of NIS5000, which should be paid into the account of the Accountant General - account 02526622 in the Postal Bank. The tender bidder will be provided, on submitting the Postal Bank receipt for the above sum.

When receiving the tender documents, the purchaser will also be required to state the name of his company, address, telephone number, and fax number. The bidder's representative will also give his name.

A meeting of bidders will be held on April 20, 1998, at the International Congresses Center, 1 St. Shazar, Jerusalem.

Last date for submitting bids: June 14, 1998 at 12 noon. Bids should be placed in the tenders box at the Ministry of Finance, 5th floor, Room 523 (Archives), 1 Rehov Keizer, Jerusalem.

A bid not found in the tenders box, whatever the reason, cannot be considered. This notice is for general information only. The text of the tender documents will take preference over anything contained in this notice.

ISRAEL ELECTRIC CORPORATION TENDERS

TENDER 654384

AGREEMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF OILS

Cost of tender documents, incl. VAT: NIS1930

STAGE A: Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices. Period of agreement: Two years, with the option to extend for a further year.

At this stage, bidders should submit the following details:

- Confirmation from the producer of the lubricating materials that they comply with standard ISO 9002, or alternatively, that the supplier applies the producer's quality-control tests.
- The producer's confirmation that the materials comply with all the standards listed in the specification, or alternatively, confirmation provided by the manufacturer of the additive package that the products offered meet all the requirements of all relevant standards or specifications.
- A laboratory certificate giving the results of tests to confirm suitability of the materials, carried out in accordance with the stated specification.
- All oils of Family 1, hydraulic oils (Sections 1.1.1 - 1.1.10, listed in the table for providing data for the tender) should all come from the same producer.
- All oils of Family 2, gear oils (Sections 2.1.1 - 2.3.7, listed in the table for providing data for the tender) should all come from the same producer.

The final date for submission of bids is 3.5.98, 11:00 a.m.

Pre-conditions for participation in the tender (in addition to the detailed pre-conditions):

- Participation in the tender is also conditional on observing the pre-conditions detailed in the regulations of the Mandatory Tender Rules 1993, Section 8(a), 1, 2, 3 (registration as required by law, complying with relevant standards, and the holding of permits, as required by the law governing public commercial bodies).
- The Electric Corporation may allow a bidder who does not provide some document, permit, license or the like, called for in the tender, the provision of which is a participation pre-condition, to supply it to the Corporation, within a time fixed by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Department, 11 Pal-Yam Boulevard, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt demonstrating payment (which is non-refundable) into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address, by calling 04-86874554.

Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused, Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at the above offices, or at the Sales Department, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod Building, entrance C, last floor, Tel. 03-565-4679, 03-565-4641.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope, and be placed in Tender Box No. 1 in the Pal-Yam building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as given above, not later than 11 a.m.

NOTE: The bid envelopes cannot be submitted at the offices of the Corporation in Tel Aviv. Bids submitted in Tel Aviv will be disqualified. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation). The Electric Corporation reserves the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

Tenders may be seen at the Corporation's Internet site: WWW.ISRAEL-ELECTRIC.CO.IL

2.8125	+0.25
54.25	+1.75

[illegible]

—82	+1.135
38.75	-0.4575
15.00	0.100

[illegible]

P.G. Group	10.3125	+0.05
P.T. Tech	0	+0.125
Swenson Industries	5.1875	-0.1875

Grada Hese	80.3125	+0.25
Granda	24.3125	+0.0625

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Merson saves England

BERNE (Reuters) — World Cup qualifiers England came back strongly in the second half to salvage a 1-1 draw with Switzerland in a scrappy friendly on a bitterly cold night yesterday.

Middlesbrough's Paul Merson, whose only other England goal came against Czechoslovakia exactly six years ago to the day, equalized with a powerful right-foot shot after 69 minutes following a mistake by goalkeeper Joel Corninboeuf. He cleared straight to Alan Shearer, whose pinpoint cross to the far side of the area, set up Merson for the equalizer.

Switzerland, who failed to reach the finals in France this summer and who had beaten England only three times in 17 meetings since 1933, went ahead after 37 minutes when Ramon Vega of English premier league club Tottenham deftly glanced home a cross from Stephane Chapuisat.

England coach Glenn Hoddle fielded an unfamiliar looking team with 16 players either injured or unavailable for the game. Switzerland's first under their new coach Gilbert Gress. The home side dominated the first half but England were stronger after the break in a match which rarely rose above the mediocre.

Russia 1, France 0
In Moscow, a third-minute blunder by French reserve goalkeeper Lionel Letizi handed Russia victory in a friendly yesterday that must leave the World Cup hosts more than a little concerned.

Without injured playmaker Zinedine Zidane, the French attack, led by a less than sparkling Yuri Djorkaeff, rarely posed a threat to a solid Russian defence.

The home team got off to a flying start on a chilly night when Metz keeper Letizi, in for Fabien Barthez who was hurt in training on Monday, lost concentration on a backpass.

Yuran darted in to dispossess him and slotted home at close range.

It is the first defeat for France, who have never won in six visits to Russia, since they lost to England last June. It was also their first away game in 14 months and coach Aimé Jacquet may be glad he will play the entire World Cup finals at home.

In other friendly last night it was Czech Republic 2, Ireland 1; Belgium 2, Norway 2; Poland 2, Slovenia 0; Macedonia 1, Bulgaria 0.

Pele celebrates as his sports bill becomes law

BRASILIA (Reuters) — Pele, Brazil's sports minister, celebrated on Tuesday when President Fernando Henrique Cardoso signed into law his bill to modernize the country's chaotic sports industry.

"This was one of the most difficult goals of my life," Pele told a gathering of sports officials and lawmakers in the presidential palace.

"Brazilian sport is now equipped to meet the new century," he said. The so-called Pele Law obliges professional sports clubs, including Brazil's poorly run soccer teams, to observe business law and pay tax within two years.

Players will gain freedom of contract by 2001, ending their current obligations to clubs which take them on as teenagers.

The law also allows clubs to organise their own leagues, breaking the monopoly of official organizations like the Brazilian



Warne becomes most successful Test spinner

Shane Warne and Ian Healy celebrate as Warne became the most successful spin bowler in Test history yesterday when he snapped up Rahul Dravid, one of two Indian wickets he took, in the third and final Test in Bangalore. Warne beat the mark of 309 held by West Indies off-spinner Lance Gibbs when he took the wicket of Dravid in his 67th Test. Gibbs had taken 79 Tests to achieve his haul. Warne, who had figures of nought for 142 in the second Test in Calcutta which Australia lost by an innings and 219 runs, overhauled Gibbs by dismissing Navjot Sidhu (74) and Dravid (23) in successive overs. India were 290-4 at the close on the opening day, with Sachin Tendulkar on 117 not out.

(Reuters)

Del Negro ekes out win for Spurs

CLEVELAND (AP) — Vinny Del Negro hit a 12-foot baseline jumper with 3.3 seconds to play Tuesday night to give the San Antonio Spurs an 86-85 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Del Negro drove around a pick by Tim Duncan that freed him from defender Derek Anderson and buried the fallaway jumper to snap Cleveland's four-game winning streak.

David Robinson led the Spurs with 27 points, 10 rebounds and eight blocked shots. Duncan had 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Robinson scored 13 points in the final quarter.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas led Cleveland with 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Jazz 92, Suns 73

In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone scored 19 points, Greg Foster added 12 points and a career-high 15 rebounds and Utah moved back into a tie for the best record in the Western Conference.

Dennis Scott led the Suns with 16 points and Danny Manning added 14, but none of Phoenix's starters scored in double figures. The Suns shot just 37 percent (30-for-81) from the field.

Hornets 106, Raptors 89

In Toronto, Glen Rice had 24 points and seven rebounds and all five Charlotte starters scored in double figures as the Hornets cruised past the host Raptors.

David Wesley had 10 points and 14 assists and Anthony Mason contributed 11 points and nine rebounds for Charlotte, which won for the 14th time in 15 games.

Bucks 118, Rockets 108

In Milwaukee, Ray Allen scored 33 points and Armon Gilliam added a season-high 29 as the host Bucks snapped a nine-game losing streak.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	48	21	.696	—
Orlando	38	31	.551	10
Washington	34	35	.522	12
New York	35	34	.507	13
Charlotte	33	36	.476	15
Boston	30	38	.441	17 1/2
Philadelphia	25	43	.368	22 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	52	17	.754	—
Indiana	48	20	.706	3 1/2
Cleveland	46	24	.657	5 1/2
Detroit	41	29	.586	10 1/2
Cleveland	37	31	.544	14 1/2
Denver	33	34	.497	19
Minnesota	30	38	.441	21 1/2
Kansas	15	53	.221	36 1/2

Western Conference

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Antonio	51	17	.750	—
Phoenix	47	22	.682	4 1/2
Portland	36	32	.529	15 1/2
Utah	35	34	.507	16 1/2
Dallas	27	37	.423	24 1/2
San Jose	16	52	.235	35
Denver	8	62	.114	44

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	51	17	.750	—
LA Lakers	49	19	.721	2
Phoenix	45	24	.657	6 1/2
Portland	37	31	.544	14
Sacramento	26	44	.371	26
LA Clippers	15	53	.221	36
Golden State	14	55	.203	37 1/2

2-cracked playoff berth.

also halted Houston's six-game winning streak

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 22 and Othello Harrington 18 for the Rockets, who were depleted themselves as Clyde Drexler (groin) and Charles Barkley (shoulder) did not make the trip.

Hawks 85, Magic 73

In Atlanta, Steve Smith scored 10 of his 28 points in the last 10 minutes to lead the host Hawks over Orlando.

After the Magic cut the lead to 73-67 with 4:30 to play, Smith hit a pair of free throws and two 3-pointers in

a 12-0 run giving that gave the Hawks an 85-67 lead with two minutes left.

Wizards 99, Trail Blazers 87

In Portland, Oregon, Juwan Howard scored 24 points, Tracy Murray had 23 and Washington survived the third-quarter ejection of Rod Strickland to beat the slumping Blazers.

Arydas Sabonis had 14 points and 15 rebounds, but none of them came in the fourth quarter for the Blazers, losers of three in a row and 3-7 since Damon Stoudamire went down with a sprained right ankle.

Knicks 88, Warriors 75

In Oakland, California, Larry Johnson scored 23 points and Allan Houston had 18 as New York gained its first road victory in more than a month.

The Knicks, still without injured Patrick Ewing, Chris Dudley and Buck Williams, also got 12 points from Charles Oakley and 10 points apiece from Chris Mills and John Starks in snapping a string of four straight road losses.

Jim Jackson's 19 points led the Warriors, who lost their eighth straight.

Israel take on Swiss in rugby international

By JOEL GORDIN

The national rugby team will play its first international of the season on Saturday when they meet Switzerland at the main athletics field at the Wingate Institute.

The game is part of the Silver Cup competition organized by the French-based Federation Internationale de Rugby Amateur (FIRA). FIRA competitions are contested by countries where rugby is a minor sport.

In this year's competition, Israel is matched against Switzerland,

Yugoslavia, Latvia and Lithuania. Each team will play its opponents only once. Two games have already been played, with Lithuania beating Latvia 25-23 and Switzerland defeating Yugoslavia 29-13.

Israel is scheduled to meet Yugoslavia on April 25, Lithuania in late May and Latvia early in June. All three games will be away.

Israel last took part in a FIRA competition in 1996/7 when they beat Luxembourg but lost to Croatia. Croatia won the three-team contest.

Hussain favourite to take over as captain

LONDON (Reuters) — Nasser Hussain has been installed by bookmakers William Hill as favorite to succeed Michael Atherton as England cricket captain.

Atherton, 30, stepped down on Tuesday after the 3-1 series defeat by West Indies.

Hussain is the even money favorite, followed by Alec Stewart at 2-1, Mark Ramprakash at 7-2 and one-day skipper Adam Hogg at 7-1. However, former captain Bob Willis forecast on Wednesday that Stewart, 34, would get the job but felt England should look elsewhere in the longer term.

Willis told BBC Radio 5 Live: "I would look further afield than Alec Stewart, but I think that the England selectors will make him captain for 12-18 months." He added: "It will take a lot of thought but the stop-gap might be Alec. While I think he can do most things, I don't think he can captain the side and keep wicket."

Israel has done relatively well in three previous games against Switzerland.

In a friendly in 1981, the teams drew 9-9; in the qualifying competition for the 1991 World Cup, Switzerland won 22-15 and in the 1997 World Cup qualifiers — which were held in 1996 — the teams again drew 9-9.

Israel will be re-enforced by the arrival in the country on Friday of former captain, fly-half Johnny Saacks, who now plays for the Oxford University second XV.

On this season's form, the men to watch among the backs are Russian-born full back Evgeny

Zacharov (Ra'anana) and the two wings from Netanya, Darren Pincus and Zahi Tsafadi.

The forwards will be spearheaded by Russian-born flank Alex Tkachenko (Tel Aviv) and by Netanya No. 8, Guy Dotan, who recently spent time in New Zealand where he played at county level.

The squad will be captained by Ra'anana hooker, veteran Fabian Rias, who has played for the national team since 1989. He will have a choice of at least three fine place-kickers: Saacks, Tkachenko and Pincus. The game starts at 19:30, admission is free.

Kinder win fight-marred Bologna EuroLeague derby

BOLOGNA (Reuters) — Kinder Bologna beat neighbors Teambystem 64-52 in their European Cup derby on Tuesday but the quarter-final tie was marred by a huge fight involving virtually every player on court.

The punch-up was triggered just over two minutes from the end by a clash between Kinder's Yugoslav pivot Zoran Savic and Teambystem's talented point-scoring wing Gregor Fucak.

After one of the umpires blew for a foul, Fucak threw the ball at Savic, who then hit out at his opponent.

The rest of the players joined in, including the entire Teambystem bench and three players from the Kinder bench.

Play stopped for almost 10 minutes while the two referees, one from Lithuania and the other from Greece, tried to restore calm.

Eventually the referees ejected Kinder's Savic, Alessandro Abbio and Riccardo Morandotti along with Teambystem's Fucak. American team mate Carlton Myers and the whole of the bench.

That left Teambystem to play out

the final minutes with only three men — US playmaker David Rivers, Stefano Atunua and Irish pivot Dan O'Sullivan.

Kinder, with five players left on court, tied up their victory to take a decisive step towards the Final Four competition in Barcelona next month.

Guard Hugo Sconochini top-scored for Kinder with 20 points while Rivers notched 17 for Teambystem.

The two sides met each other for what is sure to be another highly charged game tonight. If Teambystem win, a decider will be staged next week.

Benetton Treviso 67, Elvez Pilsen 57

Benetton Treviso boosted Italy's hopes of putting two teams into next month's Final Four when they beat Turkey's Efes Istanbul 67-57 in a quarter-final first leg game.

Treviso established a 36-28 half-time lead against a depleted Turkish side who sorely missed their dangerous Petar Naumoski, out with a fractured cheekbone.

The Italians opened up a 26-21

lead after 14 minutes thanks to a superb triple from American guard Henry Williams.

At the start of the second period the Turks fought back and reduced the gap to two points (39-37) before Treviso upped their game and opened an unassailable 10 point lead at 49-39.

A series of baskets from Rod Sellers kept Istanbul in the match but Treviso's 2.11-meter Yugoslav pivot Zeljko Rebraca was in unstoppable form.

He finished the night with a hefty 31-point tally while Williams chipped in with 14.

Treviso, who brushed aside Olimpia Ljubljana in the previous round, now travel to Istanbul for the return match on Thursday.

If Treviso win Game 2 tonight, they will join either Kinder Bologna or Teambystem Bologna in an Italian-dominated Final Four in Barcelona in April.

AEK Athens 88, Alba Berlin 86

AEK Athens easily demolished Alba Berlin 88-68 in their first leg, quarter

final. After a nervous start, AEK ended the first half 47-27 ahead and Alba Berlin never managed to force their way back into the game.

AEK guard Bane Prelevic top-scored with 24 points, including four three pointers with strong support from the team's two Daves, with center Michael Andersen netting 13 and forward Mikkel Larsen 14.

Alba Berlin led briefly early in the first half by one point but were weak under the basket.

Forward Henning Hamisch was the Germans' top-scorer with 16 points.

Partizan 87, CSKA Moscow 72

Partizan Belgrade demolished CSKA Moscow 87-72 in Belgrade. After a slow start, Partizan quickly built up a 20-point lead and at half-time were ahead 49-24.

The Muscovites' MVP Valery Daineko was quickly neutralized and was substituted, although he still ended as his team's top scorer with 16 points which says little for the performance of his team mates.

Partizan's centre Dejan Tomasevic scored 19 and Hris Brkic and Miroslav Radosevic 17 each.

Keegan has mixed feelings on Newcastle saga

LONDON (Reuters) — Former Newcastle United manager Kevin Keegan said on Wednesday he was left with "a feeling of deep and lasting sadness" by the scandal which forced two club directors to resign.

Keegan was forced out of Newcastle in January 1997 but, while expressing no sympathy for Douglas Hall and Freddie Shepherd, he said the two directors had been largely responsible for rebuilding the club.

"Without their courage and support at the time it was needed, Newcastle United, as we see it today, would not exist," Keegan said in an article in the Sun newspaper.

"That is why there should be a feeling of sadness as well as a sense of justice now they have gone."

"Because the two men who, more than anyone else at the club, helped create the modern Newcastle will be remembered for the wrong reasons." Hall and Shepherd resigned on Tuesday after being reported in

a tabloid newspaper as ridiculing fans who bought replica shirts and describing local women as "dogs".

Keegan became manager of Newcastle, his first management post, in 1992 and helped return them to the top of English soccer before being "put in a position I couldn't tolerate or accept" by the club's board as it prepared for flotation on the stockmarket.

"In one sense, I have more reason than anyone to say negative things about these people because they sacked me," Keegan said.

"But I'm not prepared to forget the good they did before the bad that finished them." Keegan said that he and the two directors ran the club in his time as manager and made huge sums available for player purchases. "They were crucial to the building of a club that has become massive," Keegan said.

Sir John Hall, father of Douglas, has returned from retirement as chairman until the end of the season.

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